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Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 7 Nov

NC1511213095

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 7 November edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Awqaf Minister on Apartments Distribution, Elections
2. Council Prepares Shari'ah View on Organ Transplants
3. Government Praised for Fighting Extremist Ideas
4. Supervision of Radio, Television Religious Programs Urged
5. Editorial Praises Role of al-Azhar
6. Columnist on Spread of Jewish Extremism
7. Al-Azhar Imam Interviewed on Ties With State, Other Issues
8. College Students Criticize Inadequate Religious Programs

AWQAF MINISTER ON APARTMENTS DISTRIBUTION, ELECTIONS

An unattributed 60-word report on page 1 cites Awqaf Minister Dr. 'Ali Mahjub as saying that there are no middlemen or favoritism in the distribution of ministry-owned apartments except in special circumstances for the needy. He also denied claims that awqaf resources have been used for election propaganda.

COUNCIL PREPARES SHARI'AH VIEW ON ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

A 50-word unattributed report on page 1 says that the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs has prepared the final shari'ah view on the transplant of body organs to be used as a reference. The report does not give any other details.

GOVERNMENT PRAISED FOR FIGHTING EXTREMIST IDEAS

A 125-word item by Muhammad al-Abnudi on page 2 reports on an interview with his eminence Imam Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, identified as the "Islamic leader and head of the Sudanese opposition." He praises Egypt's role in "fighting extremist ideas" and adds that Egypt's "wise leadership has succeeded in rectifying the wrong ideas propagated by the enemies of Islam." After asserting that the Sudanese regime's policies will not affect the close ties between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples, he says that "the current tribulations of Muslims all over the world are bound to disappear once they unite and stand in one line against the injustice and repression to which people are subjected."

SUPERVISION OF RADIO, TELEVISION RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS URGED

A 100-word report by Nadia al-Sayyid on page 2 says that the National Council for Education and Scientific Research has recommended setting up a technical supervision committee of experienced scholars in the television and radio corporation to review religious and social programs. It also urged the mobilization of arts to serve virtue and to use religious programs to "teach respect for men of religion and teachers of religious education and to decisively confront those provoking the citizens' feelings."

EDITORIAL PRAISES ROLE OF AL-AZHAR

The paper's 400-word editorial on page 3 praises the role of al-Azhar and its status as the center of Islamic studies and a beacon for Muslims everywhere and says that it will continue to protect Islam "despite the desperate attempts to isolate it, cast doubt on its role and mission, and belittle its status." After citing an interview with al-Azhar Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq published on pages 8 and 9, the editorial says that the al-Azhar "will never be a tool for upsetting security and stability in any society but only defines what is and is not permissible according to the shari'ah of God almighty."

COLUMNIST ON SPREAD OF JEWISH EXTREMISM

In his 300-word "Very Frankly" column on page 6, journalist Basyuni al-Halawani seizes on the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Jewish extremists to take issue with the West's attempts to accuse Islam of extremism. Starting by saying that the assassination shows that unstable individuals are found in every religion, he adds that "the West has tried to show extremism as typical of Islam alone. It exaggerated the individual cases that have occurred inside Muslim countries and tried to deceive itself and us, too, when it depicted Islam as a religion that urges violence, killing, and the shedding of blood while deliberately ignoring the ugliest forms of Christian extremism in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Jewish extremism against unarmed Muslims in Palestine."

He then reviews the escalating "Jewish violence" in recent years and cites several examples to back this up before accusing the Israeli Government of being lax toward the extremists and of allowing them to attack Muslims. Arguing that extremism has spread everywhere in Israel, he says that "instead of preoccupying itself with Muslim extremists and claiming that they are an obstacle to peace, the Israeli Government must now confront the Jewish extremists after it has become evident that they are the obstacle to the just and comprehensive peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors."

AL-AZHAR IMAM INTERVIEWED ON TIES WITH STATE, OTHER ISSUES

The paper publishes on pages 8 and 9 a 5,000-word interview with Al-Azhar Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq by al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, Basyuni al-Halawani, and Musa Hal in which he touches on several issues, including the dialogue with other religions, normalization with Israel, al-Azhar's achievements, and relations between al-Azhar and the state.

Starting with a question on the calls for dialogue among the main religions, Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq voices some reservations about such a dialogue if its purpose is to discuss "tenets in detail, in which case it should be an academic one and closed and not a public conference or dialogue. Tenets require specialists and not religious people only." He then says that if the aim of the dialogue is coexistence then this is possible and desirable because "Islam advocates coexistence between peoples." He rejects the description of Islam as an introverted religion and says that Muslims are not intolerant or violent fanatics but speak of Islam's coexistence and tolerance but not laxity. To a question about a dialogue with Jews in light of the continued aggression against the Muslims' holy places, the al-Azhar imam says that "caution must be observed, specifically when it comes to dialogue with the Jews at a time when actions or meetings are taking place to establish peace in Palestine." "A general dialogue," he goes on to say, "must aim to establish peaceful coexistence in areas where there is violence but without being a religious dialogue, that is an ideological one. If the dialogue touches on politics and succeeds and if it stops at social affairs and cooperation on coexistence, then this is acceptable."

Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq then criticizes the "rush" to normalize relations with Israel. He says: "My advice is that there should not be any hurry but rather caution about the situation we already find ourselves in. Let matters proceed according to organized steps and not move from one step to another until after the first step has been completed." He then voices his view that we should not blame others for our problems as this is a point of weakness. He urges self-sufficiency and self-reliance in proceeding with development programs.

He next reviews the achievements of al-Azhar, the increase in the number of colleges and the possibility for admission, and how al-Azhar graduates can be found in all the government's departments. He follows this by reviewing the development of the educational system and curricula.

Moving on to relations between al-Azhar and the state and the claims that al-Azhar is issuing fatwas, or religious edicts, that support terrorism or at least do not condemn it and that it has drawn up a constitution for the Islamic state, Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq says there are no differences between al-Azhar and the state. He adds that "al-Azhar does not operate against the state. Al-Azhar is an Egyptian citizen, so how could it act against its state? But it voices what is right and there is nothing wrong with this. When it voices a view, it addresses the view to all the citizens, including the government. When it gives advice, it is for the entire Muslim world." He says that the state is responsible for al-Azhar, which does not receive funds from anyone else but has a budget covered by the state.

As for the question on the so-called Islamic constitution being prepared by al-Azhar, he says: "This issue was raised in the sixties and seventies. Doing a study or researching the Islamic constitution does not mean that our constitution is not Islamic. What does constitution mean? It is a law like others, but also "the father of laws." The Koran is the Islamic constitution. We have the Koran; we memorize it, carry it, read it and speak of it on our radio. We thank God that Egypt is the bearer of the Koran, embraces Islam, and propagates it. There is absolutely no harm if an Islamic constitution is discussed because it does not deviate from the constitution we are living under which can be amended. The Koran cannot be amended, though it can be interpreted in various ways."

On the economy and its reliance on the West, he says that Islam does not proscribe scientific development derived from the West but urges economists to study the differences between Islam's tenets on economy and Western ones and learn from them as their forefathers did.

Concluding the interview by speaking about the upcoming People's Assembly elections, the al-Azhar imam expresses the hope that all citizens will abide by Islam's discipline during the campaign and urges public debates between the candidates so that the electorate can hear what they are offering. He also urges candidates not to use mosques for electioneering purposes and to protect their sanctity.

STUDENTS CRITICIZE INADEQUATE RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS

A 1,000-word report on page 15 by Salah 'Abd-al-Mu'ti cites officials from various colleges about the religious services and guidance programs provided for students residing in college dormitories. Several students said this was not true or insufficient, which leaves room for Islamic groups to disseminate their ideas among the students.

Thus, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hashshad, director general of the student dormitories at al-Azhar University, speaks about daily religious programs, lectures, and meetings with teachers at least once a month. His counterpart in the 'Ayn Sham University, Muhammad Hamid, says that the administration "takes the necessary measures whenever some people want to propagate extremist or deviationist ideas among their colleagues through certain books and cassettes." Su'ad Tawfiq, who is in charge of the female students residences at the 'Ayn Shams University, says weekly lessons and lectures are given but female students pray separately in their rooms. Dr. 'Abd-al-Hayy al-Rifa'i of the Hulwan University says there are mosques for the students and also daily religious meetings to answer students' questions. But the report notes that several students, who asked not be named but to use their initials, disputed these claims. Thus a certain H.M. from Cairo University says that while there are mosques, the lessons are irregular and the quality of speakers leaves much to be desired. He adds: "Issues discussed are mostly far from our interests and this creates a good climate for the Islamic groups to disseminate their ideas among the students." Another unidentified student alleges that books in the libraries are not fit even for children and are about issues that do not concern the young. Another student, A. L., says the administration quite often bans certain preachers from coming to lecture the students and answer their questions. This, he adds, "makes us more eager than ever to see this preacher and to meet him somewhere else."

Palestinian Affairs

Official Says Authority-Hamas Dialogue 'Serious'

JN1511153195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The official committee for commemorating national and pan-Arab occasions held a central celebration on the seventh anniversary of the Palestinian declaration of independence at al-Yarmuk stadium in Gaza this afternoon. Presidency Secretary General al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim conveyed the greetings and congratulations of President 'Arafat to the Palestinian people on the anniversary of the independence declaration.

In a speech he delivered on behalf of President 'Arafat, 'Abd-al-Rahim asked the Israeli Government to continue implementing the signed agreements, and lauded the commitment of Shim'on Peres' government to the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles.

'Abd-al-Rahim strongly condemned all the Israeli forces that try to obstruct the peace process. He stressed that the independence document will eventually be translated on the ground in the form of a Palestinian state whose capital is holy Jerusalem.

He emphasized that efforts of the forces which support and oppose the peace process should be unified in order to realize the national objectives and establish the independent state. He hailed the current dialogue between the National Authority and the opposition forces, led by [the Islamic Resistance Movement] Hamas, and described this dialogue as serious.

'Abd-al-Rahim urged the Palestinian people to register for the upcoming legislative elections that will entrench national decisionmaking.

Hamas on Dialogue With PA, New Political Party

NC1511123495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 15 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian security authorities have released 25 people belonging to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] who were arrested in recent months. Only 25 remain in Palestinian prisons and they will be released soon. Among them is Shaykh Sayyid Samih, chief editor of AL-WATAN, the mouthpiece of Hamas in Gaza.

Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, official spokesman for Hamas in Gaza, made these remarks in an exclusive interview with a MENA correspondent today. He said contacts are continuing with the Palestinian Authority [PA] to conclude arrangements for a dialogue between the Authority and Hamas. It was agreed that the dialogue would be held in Cairo instead of Khartoum. He emphasized that choosing Cairo as a venue for the dialogue has positive practical significance for Hamas and its political progress.

Dr. al-Zahhar said preparations have been made to hold the dialogue in the coming days and that the movement has devised a working paper of 20 items to be discussed with the PA. He added that President 'Arafat will attend some of the dialogue sessions, which will (?impart) seriousness to the dialogue. We hope to reach positive results for the good of all the factions of the Palestinian people, he remarked.

Al-Zahhar told MENA's correspondent that he will soon announce the formation of a political party for Hamas supporters within a broad Islamic front along the lines of the Islamic Front in Jordan. This front, he added, will open the door to any Islamic movement to join, will deal with political, cultural, social, and sports issues, and will have no interest in military concerns. He added that the front will operate in a democratic way and that its members will have the right to decide whether to participate in elections.

He noted that this front is not a substitute for the Hamas Movement. This, he added, means that Hamas will not resort to war, but its supporters will form a democratic front open to all Islamists.

'Arafat Leaves for Paris, To Meet Chirac

JN1511151095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat left the homeland for Paris at noon today.

President 'Arafat will hold talks with his French counterpart Jacques Chirac on bilateral relations and the latest developments in the peace process.

President 'Arafat will participate in the 50th anniversary of the UNESCO, which will be attended by nine Arab presidents, including Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Fatah's al-Hasan Cited on Return to Gaza

MM1511160995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Nov 95 p 4

[Report by Husayn Hijazi: "Hani al-Hasan Tells AL-HAYAH: Disagreement Does Not Preclude Participation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, arrived in Gaza on the night of Tuesday to Wednesday, entering by the Rafah border crossing in the company of President Yasir 'Arafat, who was on his way back from Cairo after attending the PLO Executive Committee meetings.

The Palestinian National Authority had made contacts with Israel to remove the obstacles placed by the Hebrew state on the decision to allow al-Hasan to enter the self-rule area because of his positions opposing the Palestinian-Israeli agreements.

Al-Hasan, who visited Gaza in 1963 as a representative of the Palestinian Students Federation in Germany, expressed his thanks for 'Arafat's efforts and the success of the arrangements for his return. However, in a statement to AL-HAYAH in Gaza, he said that his "return to Gaza and all the other Palestinian West Bank territories is a natural right, and it is normal that this right transcends divergence of views, since I did not come to Gaza to change my viewpoint."

He described the situation as "a new reality for the Palestinian cause, on which the fate of the Palestinians as a people for years, perhaps decades, to come, depends." He said that his coming to Gaza "reflects the need to bear the burden of work" which "requires everybody's efforts and energies, because this experiment has no alternative other than to either advance or retreat."

On his position regarding the agreement on the self-rule interim phase, al-Hasan said: "This is now a reality, but the question is whether the Palestinians are capable of changing the reality to something better than documents," pointing out that the dialogue has not been suspended in the past between him and 'Arafat.

Al-Hasan criticized "some people's superficial and narrow view, which only sees the opposition's negative side and not its positive aspect, namely that of a modern means to dialogue and participation in shouldering the burdens."

Palestinian sources have linked the return of al-Hasan, one of the generation of Fatah founders, to the redeployment in the West Bank, explaining that "'Arafat now feels that he needs the likes of al-Hasan to help him shoulder the responsibilities of the vast workshop which will start after Palestinian control over the cities and villages of the West Bank is achieved." They expressed the view that al-Hasan, by virtue of his good contacts and relations with the Palestinian opposition and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), can play a part in the dialogue between them. The sources also expect him to play a part in the Fatah movement during the next phase in the self-rule area, in view of the fact that the movement held its first central committee meeting in Gaza last week.

Committee Discusses Civilian Powers, Ends Meetings

JN1511203895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Higher Joint Civilian Committee, cochaired by Civilian Affairs Minister Jamil al-Tarifi and Israel's Oren Shahor, concluded its meetings this evening after reviewing civilian powers handed over to the National Authority.

The committee also agreed to transfer other civilian powers in the fields of communications, employment, statistic, and interior affairs next week and to conclude talks on electricity within the next three months.

PA Said Conducting East Jerusalem Voter Census

TA1511122395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Report by Aviv Bushinsky]

[FBIS Translated Text] In preparation for Palestinian Authority [PA] elections, Israel offered its services in conducting the population census and in locating residents eligible to vote. The Palestinians rejected the offer on the grounds that they do not want or trust Israeli work. When they decided to conduct a census before compiling a voters register, which was to include East Jerusalem, Israel demanded — in adherence with the Oslo accords — that a private organization carry out the task in order to avoid the impression that the PA was already operating in the capital of Israel.

Yet an internal memo received by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert points to a violation of the accords by the Palestinians. In preparation for the elections due to be held next month [as heard] a survey was launched three days ago, but instead of being undertaken by a private body — the agreement stipulated the al-Ibrahimiyah College from East Jerusalem — the PA set up offices at the nearby Ambassador Hotel.

The memo, a copy of which we have obtained, reveals that the PA itself is compiling the East Jerusalem voters register. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the PA official in charge of the elections, says the endeavor is being managed by the private college. 'Aynan Abu- Mazahir, the manager of the electoral sector of Jerusalem, was much less unequivocal. As for the al-Ibrahimiyah College, they said that they have signed no contracts and been assigned no such task.

Foreign Ministry Legal Adviser Yo'el Singer said in reaction that he does not know anything about such an infraction, but that if true, it would indeed be a violation of the accords.

DFLP Calls on Masses To Boycott Elections

TA1511152395 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Nov 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, AL-NAHAR Documentation and Media Office — At the end of a round of meetings between members of the occupied homeland and the diaspora, the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] affirmed that the elections — with the conditions stipulated in the Taba accord and the draft parties law — have no motive other than bestowing popular and political legitimacy on the accord and choosing a council mandated to implement the accord. This council will gain its authority not from the people but from the limited powers granted to it in accordance with the accord.

A statement by the DFLP's Central Media Office, issued yesterday morning, added that these elections will fragment our people's unity.

The DFLP Central Committee called on the Palestinian masses in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip to boycott these elections.

Algeria

Sifi Urges Citizens To Vote Without Fear

LD1611084795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Address by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi in Bejaia on 15 November — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algerian people, tomorrow, 16 November will be a decisive and historic day for your future and the future of Algeria as a homeland and as a nation. You are called upon, in front of the whole world which is watching, to have your word and express your choice.

According to the commitments they pledged, the authorities of the transitional period turn to your free and sovereign choice.

Tomorrow, 16 November, will be the first day of resuming the electoral process. This day should close the chapter of the political crisis which started in 1992 and opens a new period of peace and democracy. This is our hope and we are certain that these are the aspirations of all the Algerian citizens, men and women.

Brothers and sisters:

Tomorrow, 16 November, when you wake up and walk toward the polling stations carrying your voting cards, Algeria, all Algeria will be the one that makes the move and your participation in the voting will be an act of faith in your homeland and an action to salvage your nation.

Tomorrow, 16 November, your choice will be a simple one. Either Algeria will emerge victorious from this terrible ordeal which has gone on for long, or there will be adventure, stagnation, and the prolongation of our people's suffering and pain. Tomorrow, 16 November, when you go to vote, you should have no fear or terror because you belong to the people of honor and bravery, and the people of pride and glory.

Tomorrow, 16 November, you will listen to your conscience, and you will leave no place in your heart except for Algeria; Algeria which must inevitably regain peace, the Algeria of our forefathers, the Algeria of our children and grandchildren, the Algeria which we must build together as from now. [passage omitted]

Every Algerian family must now understand and be aware of this message; the message of sincere and brave Algerians. I would tell every Algerian who is watching and listening to me this evening: Tomorrow, your vote counts, and it is valuable and respected. Algeria needs your vote. [passage omitted]

I will tell every Algerian who is watching and listening to me this evening: Make tomorrow a date with peace and hope, a date with democracy and development. [passage omitted]

As for the sons of Algeria who have been deluded and misled by false statements and illusory and frivolous promises, and those who are prisoners of severe cold and dark nights in a moral isolation and physical deprivation — I will tell them openly that the doors are still open to you, and that your relatives, neighbors, and honorable people are extending their hands to you. So repent, repent, and return to life. Return, there is no way other than a return to senses. Return, there is no refuge other than in repentance.

O proud Algerian people, the people of challenges and victory. For over 41 years, you rebelled as a single man in order to defy and break the treacherous usurper colonialism despite its massive forces and hellish methods. How can you not expel, as from tomorrow, from among your ranks and eliminate the butchers of women and children? How can you not, as from tomorrow, tell foreign countries which are watching us that Algeria with its internal resources and without help from any foreign side is capable of standing up, and that it will live and become more independent and stronger than any time before? How can you not with a single, loud and clear voice shut up the voices of the saboteurs and proponents of divisiveness and separation. O proud Algerian people, you are capable, as you were in the past, of changing the course of history.

Tomorrow, 16 November, is the day of national awakening. May God help us and guide our steps to serve the interest of the nation and democracy.

Elections Commission Issues Statement on Voting

LD1511152195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a statement issued yesterday, the government commission in charge of preparing for the presidential elections presented the outcome of its work since it was created on 9 January. [passage omitted]

The statement revealed the number of voters concerned with these presidential elections — estimated at 15,965,364 registered voters.

As for the Algerian voters abroad, the same statement pointed out that their estimated number is 707,439 voters, due to vote at 116 election centers and 225 polling stations distributed throughout the world. [passage omitted]

When dealing with the international monitoring of the presidential elections tomorrow, the statement reminds about the invitation extended by the head of state for international observers from the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, and the Arab League to participate in monitoring the 16 November voting and ensuring the impartiality and transparency of the voting.

At the end of its statement, the government commission in charge of preparing for the presidential elections assures all the citizens that all the necessary measures have been taken to hold the elections in an atmosphere of suitable security. [passage omitted]

UN, OAU, Arab Observers Go to Provinces

LD1511175195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two [observer] delegations of the United Nations, OAU, and Arab League arrived today in Bechar and Oran. The delegation which arrived this afternoon in Oran is composed of six members and held contacts with the local authorities led by the governor of Oran. The delegation which arrived in Bechar is composed of four observers. It has also held contacts with the local authorities and representatives of the four presidential candidates.

Furthermore, delegations of observers from the Arab League, the United Nations, and the OAU today started leaving the capital for 24 provinces to monitor the voting process in them. These delegations were totally free to choose the provinces and election regions which they wanted to go to. The public authorities will however endeavor to give them assistance in order to provide the conditions of transportation and accommodation so that these delegations can carry out their tasks in the best conditions and in total independence.

It is worth pointing out that the heads of these delegations will remain in the capital and may go to a number of voting centers tomorrow.

TV To Provide 'Comprehensive' Elections Coverage

LD1511143895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Enterprise of Television [ENTV] has been, for the past few days, preparing to welcome the presidential elections with comprehensive coverage through additional news bulletins and studio discussions worthy of the event:

[Unidentified correspondent] ENTV is ready and mobilized to cover the presidential elections. Technicians, journalists, and administrative staff are all devoting their time and efforts to these preparations. The technical teams are ready with the necessary structures which will beam the event to all the provinces in the country in live transmissions. They have at their disposal recording and transmission units, studios for news, and well-designed sets.

The news department is very busy and is preparing very actively. Additional news bulletins have been scheduled. The first one will be at 0600 GMT, the second at 0900, followed by the usual 1200 bulletin, in which the viewers will be informed about the turnout in the capital and its suburbs by our special envoys. Reporters will also send dispatches from all the provinces, including the provinces of the vast south. There will also be live dispatches from the candidates' headquarters. > A fourth bulletin is scheduled for 1500, when there will be a live dispatch from the Interior Ministry on the turnout. There will be other live dispatches from a number of provinces. The [usual] 1900 GMT bulletin will include more comprehensive coverage of the elections in various parts of the country and abroad. The main bulletin, which will coincide with the end of the voting, will be followed by an open discussion about the event. Politicians and intellectuals will take part in the debate to comment and analyze the latest reports, draw the main conclusions, and make observations about the events surrounding the elections.

Further on Media Preparation

LD1511152995 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The promised day will be tomorrow, 16 November. The political event that will shape the fate of the country will be covered by Algerian television in all its details. It will also be covered by international media, Arab and western alike. About 400 foreign journalists are in Algeria to cover the first multiparty presidential elections. Our colleague Nadji Wahib will give us details on the means put at their disposal by the Algerian authorities to ensure full coverage:

[Wahib] In addition to the presence of international observers, the international press is present here at Aurassi Hotel and the International Press Center at the Theatre de Verdure, and will be present in all the provinces of the country. Many representatives of the print media, and radio and television networks are here to cover the presidential elections, the first of their kind in the history of Arab, Muslim, or African states. This presence highlights Algeria's importance and standing among nations. Contrary to speculations, this presence is not restricted to some countries. Journalists have come from the Far East, the north, Eastern and Western Europe, and even the United States, China, and Vietnam. They represent press organizations with prominent titles and well-known television channels, in addition to news agencies from various parts of the world. [passage omitted]

The presence of correspondents and special envoys from various European and Arab countries highlights the interest the world has in Algeria's political concerns. Algeria attracts the attention of everyone and remains an important station for the establishment of international relations. [passage omitted]

Expatriates Continue Voting in France, UK, Morocco

LD1511190395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government committee in charge of preparing presidential elections has expressed satisfaction at the big mobilization shown by the Algerian community abroad and its mass participation in voting. The committee asked the heads of the diplomatic and consular missions to continue their endeavors to ensure the good unfolding of the voting process abroad.

Algerian voters in France went today Wednesday to the voting centers in large numbers on the third day of this voting process which will end tomorrow. In Morocco, the rate of participation of our community [in voting] yesterday reached 42 percent in Rabat, Casablanca, and Oujda. In Britain, the rate of participation of the Algerian community in the presidential elections reached 45 percent yesterday evening.

The presidential elections are also continuing in remote areas in the southern provinces where mobile voting centers are endeavoring to reach the farthest points in these regions.

In the same context, the interior minister has asked all employers, whatever their situation or legal statute, to allow their employees to go and carry out their civic duty tomorrow 16 November.

LA NATION Editor Responds to Publication Ban

LD1511195795 Paris TF-1 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Across the Mediterranean, 16 million Algerians will vote tomorrow. This is the first multiparty presidential election since independence. The turnout will be one of the stakes of the elections since Islamists have called for a boycott. Military reinforcements have been deployed across the country to protect polling stations. Our special correspondents in Algeria, Patricia Allemoniere and Gilles Hemard — who, as you can imagine, are working in extremely difficult conditions — report:

[Allemoniere] The special intervention units, the infamous ninjas, have appeared in Algiers. [passage omitted]

The only fly in the ointment: the pressure exerted on opposition activists who have called for a boycott. The weekly LA NATION which supports them, has been banned:

[Begin recording Salima Ghezali, editor of LA NATION] Quite simply, I think, [it has been banned] because we do not conform with the media which have been amply normalized, that is, they only support the authorities in view of these elections. [end recording]

[Allemoniere] The authorities are about to win their bet. In spite of the threats issued by the armed groups, killings and bomb attacks, the electoral campaign was able to take place. Tomorrow is the big day, the day of the elections. The authorities are hopeful.

Egypt

Efforts To Resume Syrian-Israeli Talks Reported

TA1511121895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Nov 95 p 11

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Smadar Peri]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Egypt is also joining the efforts to resume the negotiations between Syria and Israel. Yesterday, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met in Damascus with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' in an attempt to fix a date for the resumption of the talks in Washington between Ambassadors Walid al-Mu'allim and Itamar Rabinovich.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT has learned that Minister Musa gave his Syrian counterpart a letter from Egyptian President Mubarak and declared that Israel was prepared to resume the negotiations in Washington. Musa drew the basis for his remarks from the meeting between President Mubarak and Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres immediately after the funeral of late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, in which both men discussed in detail the "frozen" negotiations with Syria. [passage omitted]

Musa met with the Syrian foreign minister for almost two hours. It has been learned that during the meeting, the Egyptian minister proposed a formula for resuming the talks in Washington, saying that Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres had agreed to renew the negotiations.

Musa did not receive any Syrian reply or commitment with regard to a date for resuming talks. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that since the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the Syrians have daily been urging a speedy resumption of the talks.

U.S. Decision on Embassy Said 'Legally Null and Void'

NC1611075595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0610 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR says the decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is legally null and void and inadmissible because it was issued by an entity with no rights and granted rights to an unworthy party. The paper says it sets a very odd precedent that will not be repeated in international relations.

In an editorial today the paper asks: Who gave Congress the right to donate the land of others to a foreign state that seized the Arab part of the city of Jerusalem without any right and in spite of assertions by the UN Security Council that the fate of the land occupied in 1967 could only be decided through peaceful negotiations?

AL-AKHBAR expresses surprise that the majority of U.S. congressmen are acting in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions. The paper says they think they are above international law, although many of them are international experts on law and know that their decision to move the embassy is null and void.

Paper on U.S. Jewish Groups' Role in Assassination

NC1611073695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0605 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM cautions that the assassination of late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, just 35 days after the signing of the Taba agreement, confirms the role some American Jewish organizations played in supporting Jewish extremism in Israel.

In an editorial today the newspaper says the assassination was the result of the fierce and major campaign that some Jewish American organizations launched against Rabin after signing the Taba agreement in Washington on 28 September. The campaign called for killing Rabin because "he relinquished Israel's land."

The paper points out that Jewish extremists, like Rabbi Kahana, the founder of the terrorist Kakh movement and its offshoot Kahana Hay, which Kahana's son now leads, and Goldstein, who committed the Ibrahimi massacre in February last year, infiltrated the country as part of a Jewish immigration wave.

Musa on Trust in Peres, Diplomat's Murder

NC1611113095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1015 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 16 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed his hope that the assassination of late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will not harm or obstruct the peace process.

In an interview with Radio France Internationale, Musa said Rabin was one of the Israeli leaders who worked within the peace process and tried to push it ahead. He had his different viewpoint and we disagreed with him on several positions but in general he supported the peace process, Musa said.

The foreign minister pointed out that the Oslo agreements were concluded during Rabin's term and that the decision on the issue was his. He added: We trust Shim'on Peres and his full capability to lead the peace process on the Israeli side.

Commenting on the assassination of the Egyptian commercial attache in Geneva, the foreign minister said: It was a regrettable incident and we are terribly sorry. We are following the issue with interest. But I cannot go into details, because the investigation is not over yet.

'Militant' Group Claims Diplomat Killing

NC1611101495 Paris AFP in English
1311 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 15 (AFP)—An Islamic militant group calling itself the "al-Jama'ah of International Justice" on Wednesday [15 November] claimed responsibility for the murder of an Egyptian trade official in Geneva.

The unknown group said in a statement to an international news agency: "Yes, we killed him under the law of retaliation, and other death sentences have been issued against others" opposed to Islamic fundamentalism.

Ala'-al-Din Nazmi, a trade counsellor at the Egyptian UN mission, was shot six times late Monday near his home in Geneva.

'Unidentified Gunmen' Kill Sentry in South

NC1511122595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1157 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Regular sentry Sha'ban 'Ali Baqqush from the sentry force of al-Mahras village in Markaz Mallawi was killed this morning when unidentified gunmen shot him.

A responsible security source said unidentified gunmen opened fire on the sentry and killed him as he was opening his grocery store during his day off. His residence and the store are in the same building.

Al-Minya security directorate officials and other investigation organs rushed to the scene and the public prosecution office was notified. Security forces are continuing the search for the culprits.

Mubarak on Elections, Economic Reform, Peace

NC1511190195 Cairo MENA in English 1800 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Nov 15 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today gave two interviews to "LE MONDE" newspaper and Channel Two of the French television.

Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said President Mubarak tackled in the two interviews the democratic march in Egypt and the coming legislative elections in the country. On the subject of People's Assembly elections, President Mubarak highlighted the necessity to provide legitimate political parties with the opportunity to launch election campaigns.

On economic reform in Egypt, President Mubarak voiced resolve to make more progress in this regard in line with the nature of Egyptian society in addition to adopting a gradualist approach with a view to maintaining the appropriate living standards for Egyptians. Al-Sharif said President Mubarak took up the issue of human rights in Egypt and pointed out to the right of all Egyptians to protecting their nation and securing a life of dignity in accordance with the Constitution.

President Mubarak responded to questions by "LE MONDE" and Channel Two on the Mideast peace process in light of the developments ensuing in the wake of the assassination of Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin.

President Mubarak underscored Egypt's keenness on maintaining the momentum of the peace process in the region.

On terrorism, President Mubarak said it is a universal and not an exclusively Islamic phenomenon. President Mubarak added that terrorism has no religion and urged all world states to stand firm in combating the phenomenon.

Candidates Back Independent Election Monitoring

NC1611093495 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Nov 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Majdi Hilmi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Requests for power of attorney for candidates for the People's Assembly elections are pouring on the Egyptian committee following up and monitoring the elections [an independent committee made up of public figures, university professors, and jurists led by Dr. Sa'id al-Najjar]. The candidates have requested that the committee members be allowed inside the polling stations in their constituencies to monitor the elections. The power of attorney, notarized at the notarization offices in the constituencies of the candidates, is given to Committee Chairman Sa'id al-Najjar. The candidates authorized him to follow the election proceedings and to delegate whoever he chooses to monitor the elections.

The candidates' step comes in response to the State's rejection of the committee to follow up the elections. The candidates denounced a Cabinet decision to take legal measures against the committee members. The candidates noted that the government's rejection of the committee's work shows its insistence on falsifying the voters' will. They added that the decision authorizing the Interior Ministry to take legal measures against the committee shows that the security service will not be neutral in the elections.

The committee is scheduled to hold an expanded meeting this morning to discuss its regulations of work and measures to monitor the elections. In a statement issued yesterday, the committee urged all the political forces to cooperate with it to achieve its goals. The committee noted that it is an independent body formed at the request of several organizations, institutions, and public figures. It aims to see clean and unrigged elections. It promised to do its utmost to reveal any excesses in the elections. It also pledged to ensure that election procedures and regulations conform with the Constitution, laws, and democratic norms.

Journalist Accused of 'Defamation' Comments on Case

NC1511134395 Paris AFP in English 1243 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 15 (AFP)—The first journalist to be tried for defamation under a controversial new press law appeared in court here Wednesday [15 November].

Majdi Ahmad Husayn, editor of the Islamist bi-weekly Al-Sha'b, was accused of publishing an article in July libelling Ala' Hasan al-Alfi, the son of the interior minister.

The court adjourned the case until December 20 after a lawyer for the journalist's union said it was going to challenge the law in the Constitutional Court.

The union has bitterly opposed the legislation, which introduces jail terms of up to 15 years for defamation.

Husayn told AFP the trial had "political aims because the government wants to take revenge for criticism I made in my articles, and to apply pressure.

"It also wants to send a message to all journalists that they face problems if their criticism goes beyond tolerable limits."

He added: "The government thinks that Al-Sha'b steps over the limits of freedom given to the opposition and breaks the rules of the game which allow reports on corruption on condition that those involved are not named."

Al-Sha'b, close to the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, is the only opposition paper which directly criticises President Husni Mubarak personally.

The editors of two opposition dailies — Jamal Badawi of Al-Wafd and Mustafa Kamil Murad of Al-Ahrar — have been questioned but not charged over "defamatory" articles on corruption.

Detained Journalist Parliamentary Candidate Released

NC1511190295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1642 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—The Bulaq Prosecution Office released today journalist Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, member of the Journalists Association council and an independent candidate in the People's Assembly elections (professionals) for the Bulaq electoral district.

'Abd-al-Quddus was arrested by the security forces while participating in an elections march in the district. He was released from the police station today and is due to appear before the Prosecution Office later today.

Court Sentences 3 'Terrorists' to Prison Terms

NC1511221495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2115 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—The Higher State Security Court in Cairo today announced its verdict on the al-Basatin case, in which four terrorists were on trial. The court sentenced first defendant Husam-al-Din Mahmud Ahmad to five years in prison with hard labor and defendants 'Uways 'Abd-al-'Aziz and 'Ala' 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad to a three-year prison term and a fine of 200 pounds each. The charges against fourth defendant 'Ali Qasim 'Ali Yusuf were dropped because of his death.

Explaining the reasons for its verdict, the court noted that it had ascertained that the defendants possessed explosives and ammunition without a license, as well as a powder used for processing drugs with a purpose of using them to disturb security and public order. The court accused the defendants of possessing publications and videotapes calling for the suspension of the Constitution, laws, and the public freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. The court added that it had ascertained that the defendants called for opposition to and contempt of the regime and resistance of the authorities.

The court pointed out that it had ascertained this from witnesses and from the leaflets and publications seized with the defendants. The court noted that it had toughened the sentence against the first defendant because he was found in possession of the explosives and leaflets.

'Bright Star' Military Exercise Concludes

Activities of Exercise Detailed

NC1511130595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0803 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Hammam, Alexandria, 15 Nov (MENA)—The forces participating in the Bright Star exercise resumed their activities this morning for the fifth consecutive day to implement the basic task of the maneuver. The task is to compel the enemy forces to withdraw to an international border line after inflicting on them huge losses in personnel and equipment.

The participating forces yesterday penetrated and caused breaches inside the enemy forces' lines. They pushed two armored brigades, one American and one Egyptian, deep into enemy lines. They were supported by air troops and antitank aircraft.

The participating forces today continue their pressure on the enemy forces and attempt to cause more breaches in their lines.

The participating forces will conduct air reconnaissance against the enemy forces' lines using Mirage aircraft, while the enemy forces will carry out a similar reconnaissance mission.

The air forces of the participating troops are providing air support for the attacking forces by destroying the enemy's air defenses, command centers, and deep armored reserves.

The participating forces are also dropping commandos from helicopters deep behind the enemy lines to capture tactically important units and immobilize any attacking forces.

An armored brigade from the participating forces confronts and fights an enemy armored brigade while Egyptian, U.S., French, and United Arab Emirates [UAE] helicopters attack and destroy the enemy's armored brigade.

The participating forces' F-16 aircraft bombard the enemy forces and provide cover for the assembly of advancing Egyptian and U.S. armored forces, which carry out strikes to neutralize the enemy armored forces.

The enemy forces drop paratroopers behind the participating forces to prevent their advance and confuse and destroy their services and administrative areas.

By the end of the day the participating forces will be able to liberate 40 km of territory representing 50 percent of the seized land and destroy 50 percent of the enemy troops.

In the next two days the participating forces are scheduled to complete the destruction of the enemy forces, send them back to the international border line, and secure this line. This phase is expected to be implemented through a plan by the command centers with the use of maps.

Some 56,000 troops, 800 aircraft, 30 naval vessels, mechanized infantry forces, marines, commandos, tanks, paratroopers, and electronic warfare personnel representing Egypt, the United States, France, Britain, and the UAE are taking part in the exercise.

Foreign Ships Arrive

NC1511132595 Cairo MENA in English
1200 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Alexandria, 15 Nov (MENA)—The Egyptian Ferryboat "Ra's Muhammad" reached the port today together with five U.S., British and French warships to take part in the Bright Star 95 maneuvers.

Seven ships sailed into the port in the past twenty four hours while ten others, of various nationalities, set sail.

A total of 58 vessels are being handled while 43 others are berthed at the harbour's different quays.

Defense Minister Comments

NC1511210895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1525 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Al-Hammam, 15 Nov (MENA)—Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, has stated that Egypt welcomes the participation of all major countries and the fraternal Arab countries in the Bright Star exercises. He said when peace in the region is completed on all tracks, then Israel can also participate in the maneuver because the whole region will be in a state of comprehensive peace.

In statements he made while attending one of the stages of the Bright Star 1995 maneuver which five countries are involved, Field Marshal Tantawi said the exercise has great positive aspects.

He hoped the number of participating states and troops, especially from fraternal and friendly countries, will increase during the upcoming rounds of the exercise.

Field Marshal Tantawi noted that there are no major differences among the countries participating in the exercise as far as small tactics are concerned. He said, the difference is in the way these tactics are executed. He added, one of the advantages of this joint exercise is being able to benefit from others experience in implementing these tactics.

He went on: We have known for awhile the tactics of ground-air warfare and war deep in enemy territory — tactics that are being carried out in this exercise. We are trying to benefit from our experience in the Gulf war and avoid the points of weakness that emerged. This is what we are doing now through this exercise. We are learning from the experience of the developed countries, especially the United States, in training operations.

Asked about announcements by some Arab countries that any such exercises must be held jointly with Arab, not non-Arab, countries, Field Marshal Tantawi said he did not believe that any Arab country said that. He said, Training with friendly and developed countries is beneficial to all participants.

He expressed happiness with the method of action demonstrated by the Egyptian ground and air forces and pointed out that Egypt is ready for any maneuvers with any friendly country, especially the Arab countries, whether in Egypt or in those countries.

Tantawi said: We are working on the removal of mines from the al-'Alamayn region in cooperation with the countries that fought World War II, especially Britain, Germany, and Italy. We are signing agreements with them to remove the mines.

Field Marshal Tantawi urged commanders to benefit from training on how to take the initiative, to freely make decisions in various situations, and to benefit from the relevant experience of the forces participating in the exercise.

He also called for training on the method of close and distant maneuvers on open land and for avoiding the method of training through confrontation. He also called for giving attention to air support for ground forces. [passage omitted]

Final Phase Begins

NC1611093095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Al-Hammam, Alexandria, 16 Nov (MENA)— The final phase of the "Bright Star 95" maneuvers, which involves troops from Egypt, the United States, France, Britain, and the United Arab Emirates, began today.

In the two-day phase, which will be conducted according to command projects using maps, the reserves of the joint forces will attack and destroy enemy troops from the front and flanks.

The exercise will include troop landings from the air, deep behind enemy lines, to delay the arrival of fresh enemy troops and force the hostile troops to retreat to international lines after inflicting heavy casualties and material losses on them.

The joint forces in the past two days penetrated the security circle of the enemy troops. Two Egyptian and American armored brigades, cooperating with fighter aircraft and antitank helicopters, used the gap to infiltrate the enemy's depth and annihilate armored division troops.

The enemy tried to counterattack and land troops behind the lines of the joint forces but failed to obstruct the advance of the joint troops. [passage omitted]

U.S. Military Presence in Saudi Arabia Defended

NC1511160595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "The Bombing of the U.S. Mission's Building in Saudi Arabia, a Foreign Conspiracy or a National Treason?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Those who bombed the headquarters of the U.S. mission in the Saudi capital Riyadh are greatly mistaken if they think their act will force the U.S. experts to leave Saudi Arabia and abandon cooperation with the Kingdom. No one disagrees that Saudi-U.S. cooperation is primarily aimed at providing security and stability for the Saudi people. This is a top Saudi priority, especially since the upheaval caused by the head of the ruling Iraqi regime on 2 August 1990. Iraq stormed the Kuwaiti border and occupied the country for a full seven months. During this time, the Kuwaiti people suffered the most horrible torture and humiliation. No one denies that this aggression is still affecting the souls, minds, and hearts of all Kuwaitis, and that it affected the economic situation in the Arab region. It is because of these repercussions that all attempts made by any parties to achieve Arab reconciliation are obstructed.

The Saudi-U.S. cooperation was strengthened as a result of that sinful Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The invasion threatened all states in the region. Consequently, it cannot be said that the U.S. presence in the Kingdom is a luxury sought by Saudi Arabia. This presence is directly linked to guarding Saudi Arabia against any foreign threats and protecting the country's oil wealth. This is in the interest of both the United States and Saudi Arabia.

The facts cannot be ignored. Iraq made Saudi cooperation with the United States an indispensable strategic need. This is especially true since foreign threats to the Kingdom's national interests still exist. This makes it necessary for the Kingdom to cooperate with all friends to safeguard the safety, security, and stability of the Saudi people against any foolish or reckless acts coming from any direction.

Although the perpetrators of the act sought to threaten foreigners in Saudi Arabia and shake security and stability in the country, every international capital stressed that it would bolster its cooperation [with Saudi Arabia] to serve the joint interests of the two sides. Thus, those few individuals who perpetrated the act, which conflicts with human values and noble ethics and principles— let alone its full contradiction with all religious beliefs, have intentionally or unintentionally increased the Saudi security burden. This may negatively reflect on other aspects, such as foreign aid — which the Kingdom used to extend to Arab and Islamic countries in Africa and Asia — if Saudi Arabia feels a growing threat to its national security.

Some contacts with news agencies suggested that the perpetrators of the attack belong to Arab organizations opposing foreign presence in the Kingdom. However, Saudi officials reacted to this by recalling that the United State has had a presence in the Kingdom for about 50 years. No reactions expressing anger or rejection of this presence have been made throughout that period. Investigations will therefore reveal that the perpetrators of this regrettable incident are from outside the Saudi family, which has balanced relations with all nations and is more eager than anyone else for the stability of the country and the safety and well-being of the Saudi people.

This criminal act against the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls for intensive, serious international cooperation to confront this terrorism and conspiracy, which was planned outside the Arab world. These operations often kill innocent citizens and harm Arab economies. This is a new challenge rearing its ugly head once again against the Arab region, which has not yet removed the aftermath of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Pledges To Cleanse Country of 'Rebellion'

EA1511212395 Khartoum SUNA in French 0905 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum, 15 Nov (SUNA) — Sudanese President General 'Umar al-Bashir said Sudan was stronger and more powerful as a result of the tribulations and difficulties facing it. He said it would continue along the path of the Jihad (Holy War) to repel the attackers.

Speaking Tuesday [14 November] just before a unit of volunteers left Khartoum for southern Sudan, President al-Bashir said, "We are totally ready to defend the motherland and cleanse Sudanese territory of the rebellion." He added that the battle to end the rebellion had already begun and that it was being waged against lawbreakers and their supporters and masters. He stressed the National Salvation Revolution remained undeterred by any plot and that it followed the way of Islam and God. [passage omitted]

Say Troops Advancing Toward Uganda

AB1511170595 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 15 Nov 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The battle of words between Sudan's Government and its neighbors, especially Uganda, is continuing. So are the battles on the ground in the south of the country. A big advance by SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army] from (Parajok) near the Ugandan border towards the main southern city of Juba has been attributed by the government to a support from the Ugandan Army — a claim denied by the Ugandans. Now, the Khartoum government claims the advance has been halted and while head of state General al-Bashir talks peace, he also says his troops are heading toward Uganda. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report:

Gen. al-Bashir was quoted on state radio this morning saying that government troops are advancing toward the Ugandan border. We declare to President Museveni and all his aides, the general said, that we are quite prepared not only to liberate our own land, but also to repay the visit of those who paid us a visit.

Last week, the government said that it had destroyed 70 percent of the advancing forces. There has been no official information on the position of government troops in Eastern Equatoria. However, travelers from Juba, southern Sudan's main town, say government troops have recovered from the initial thrust of the SPLA. The same travelers told me that in their initial advance, SPLA units used large numbers of tanks, forcing government troops to withdraw from towns, not just (Parajok). The rebel advance, they say, was halted when a bridge at (Ket) around 60 km from Juba was destroyed by government forces. There is now a stalemate, they say with both sides either unable or unwilling to cross the river at (Ket).

Gen. al-Bashir appears to be using both the character and the stick in dealing with the SPLA rebels in southern Sudan. Yesterday, he expressed the government's willingness to enter negotiations with the SPLA rebels, saying on state television that the government was prepared to talk to whoever wants to talk to us. However, last week, the general declared a general mobilization against what he called the Ugandan invasion and just two days ago, when seeing off a group of Mujahidin government recruits bound for the south, he told them that the Islamic holy war would continue until every last inch of Sudanese territory is recaptured from the SPLA.

Al-Bashir Says 'Door of Dialogue' Open for Rebels

EA1511220295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The higher council for peace organized a mass rally at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum yesterday which was attended by all sectors of society, senior government officials and diplomats accredited to the country, to mark the start of second round of the council's work.

Addressing the meeting, the president of the Republic and chairman of the council, staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, reiterated that the peace process would go forward forcefully and the Armed Forces and the Popular Defense Forces would continue to protect peace and defend the country against anyone who sought to harm its stability and national unity.

He added: We are advocates of peace and we seek to bring about a comprehensive and just peace in the south. He said the door of dialogue with factions of the rebellion would remain open but within the context of a united Sudan. He said federalism was a healthy solution to the southern problem because of its equitable redistribution of wealth and participation in power. He referred to the government's commitment to the issue of comprehensive development in the south, the revolution's interest in the cause of peace as a cornerstone and the government's endeavors to hold talks with the rebel movement in this regard. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir said that the meeting represented the people's (?rallying) around the revolution's program to realize peace and reject war whose fires were being lit by hostile foreign states. He added that at one time the rebel movement controlled 90 percent of the south but after the success of the Sayf al-Ubur operation when the rebels were besieged in pockets along the border areas, the imperialist states began to support the rebellion in a futile attempt to extend the war in Sudan.

He stressed that Sudan will defend every inch of its territory and that these conspiracies will only increase our strength and firmness to go forward in implementing the revolution's stated programs of self-reliance and independent political decision-making.

Earlier, the secretary general of the Higher Council for Peace, Mr. Lino Rol Deng, addressed the mass rally on the occasion marking the council's second session and explained that the coming period would witness an intensification of the internal peace process in all spheres. He said the rebel movement was now a mercenary movement serving foreign quarters with no credibility and that the citizens of the south have declared their rejection of war and the call for secession. [passage omitted]

SPLA Claims Government Troops Mutiny in Juba

EA1511142595 Kampala THE NEW VISION in English 14 Nov 95 p 1

[Article by Emmy Allio: "Sudan Soldiers Mutiny in Juba"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Sudan Government troops in the southern city of Juba have mutinied and set an ammunition and medicine store on fire, the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] said. Two officers in the Army were killed in the fire on Friday [10 November].

The Sudanese People's Liberation Army said their forces have since Friday besieged Torit, a town 80 miles east of Juba and were poised to capture it. They said their forces had advanced closer to Juba but had not yet shelled it.

The SPLA spokesman in Nairobi, Mr. Stephen Wundu, told THE NEW VISION yesterday that the rebel troops were advancing on Juba. Wundu said an estimated 1,000 Sudan troops besieged in a valley in Aswa came under intensive SPLA bombardment throughout the weekend. He said they will be bombarded until they surrender. "Our forces will bomb them until they see sense and surrender," Wundu said. He said Sudan Army mutiny has not come as a surprise. "It is the successive defeats they suffered recently which has caused a split in the Army," Wundu said.

He said the dead officers were Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Kahajim and Lieutenant Ahmed Mustafa and several others said to have been in charge of the stores in Juba military barracks. He said the SPLA was told that since the incident on Friday, an inquiry has been instituted to probe the causes of the fire. "But we believe that the fire was the work of pro-SPLA elements within the government Army," Wundu said. [passage omitted]

Opposition Figure Blames Riyadh Blast on Islamic Front

NC1511160395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Faruq Abu-'Isa, former Sudanese foreign minister and official spokesman of the Sudanese National Democratic Grouping [SNDG], has stated that the terrorist act in the Saudi capital of Riyadh, which left innocent people dead or wounded, reconfirms that terrorism knows no frontiers. In a statement released on behalf of the SNDG today, he said that this incident shows that no corner of Arab territory is far from the hand of terrorism, as long as particular regimes sponsor extremism and rely on it as a basic plank in their policy. He said the SNDG has repeatedly warned of the dangers surrounding the region as a result of the continuing policy of the ruling Islamic Front in Sudan in sponsoring terrorism, turning Sudan into fertile soil for terrorism and extremism, opening training camps for terrorists, providing them with funds and arms, and sheltering terrorist leaders who fund and mastermind acts of terror.

Abu-'Isa said in the statement that what happened in Riyadh is not isolated from events in Addis Ababa, Tunisia, Algeria, New York, Paris, and elsewhere. These acts of terror are links in a chain; they are secretly linked with the Islamic Front, which nearly always begins its moves out of Khartoum by planning, funding, training, arming, and exporting. He noted that this danger will continue to threaten the region's security, stability, and its peoples' lives and property as long as the dens of terrorism remain in Sudan and as long as the Islamic Front regime, led by Hasan al-Turabi, remains in power in Sudan.

Abu-'Isa said the SNDG and all the Sudanese people denounce this tragic and ugly incident and call for standing firm against terrorism and liquidating all the bases from which it stems in Sudan and elsewhere. He said the Sudanese people offer their condolences to His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, his government, the fraternal Saudi people, and the families of the victims and express their confidence that this act of terror and others will encourage firm regional, Arab, African, and international efforts to confront terrorism and extremism and block its channels, particularly its bases in Khartoum.

Kuwait

Interior Minister Comments on Saudi Bomb Blast

*LD1511133495 Riyadh SPA in English
1242 GMT 15 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dammam, Nov 15, SPA — Kuwaiti Interior Minister Sheikh 'Ali al-Sabah has condemned the explosion which took place in Riyadh on November 13 (Monday).

In a statement to the Dammam-based AL-YOUM newspaper, Sheikh 'Ali said the explosion was a strange incident, adding that it was against the Islamic Sharia, the Islamic teachings and social values.

He said the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry 'rejects all forms of violence and terrorism.'

Sheikh 'Ali affirmed that the Kuwaiti security organs fully support their counterparts in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He wished the kingdom and its people, continual progress and prosperity under the leadership of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdulaziz.

Security Measures Taken To Protect U.S. Facilities

*LD1611071395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0630 GMT 16 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait City, 16 Nov — Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud reaffirmed that the competent authorities have taken the required security measures to protect U.S. installations in Kuwait following the explosion in Riyadh on 13 November. In a statement to the Kuwaiti AL-SIYASSAH and commenting on a statement issued yesterday by the U.S. Embassy, Shaykh al-Hamud said "that it was natural for such measures to be taken following an incident of this sort." The Kuwaiti minister did not give any details of the measures that have been taken.

The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait announced in a statement yesterday that it had advised Americans residing in Kuwait to review their security arrangements in the wake of the explosion, which led to the death of six people and injuries to 60 others. The embassy said that it was reviewing its own security arrangements but it pointed out that there was no evidence that Americans in Kuwait have been experiencing any threat. [passage omitted]

The Pentagon last night said that the number of dead remains at six, including five Americans and a person from another nationality, while the number of injured Americans was put at 42, including five whose injuries are serious.

Saudi Arabia

'Militant' Group: 'Relentless War' on U.S. Targets

MM1611095295 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 15 Nov 95 p 3

[Unatributed report: "Third Group Claims Responsibility, Threatens Further Operations Unless 'Abd-al-Rahman, Others Released]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — A previously unknown group calling itself the "Militant Partisans of God Organization" [munazzamat ansar allah al-muqatilah] has claimed responsibility for the explosion in the Saudi capital, threatening further operations unless the "U.S. occupying forces" leave the Gulf region.

In a statement sent to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI the organization said that the explosion, which destroyed a military center run by the United States in Riyadh and resulted in six people being killed and scores being wounded, "is the first of our jihad operations."

The organization threatened further attacks unless a number of demands are met, including the release of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman, the hard-line Egyptian Muslim cleric currently being held in the United States.

This is the third group to claim responsibility for the Riyadh explosion. Two other previously unknown groups — one called the Tigers of the Gulf and the other the Movement for Islamic Change — claimed responsibility for the explosion. Nothing has been received to confirm the credibility of the two groups

The statement demanded that "the U.S. occupying forces leave the territory of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf states, and that His Eminence Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq [of Hamas], and Ramzi Yusuf [charged in World Trade Center Bombing case] and his comrades be released from U.S. jails immediately."

The organization demanded that the "Saudi authorities lift all the restrictions imposed on Muslim ulema and preachers, immediately release all detainees from Saudi jails, and apply all the rules of the Islamic Shari'ah."

The organization said that "if these just demands are not met, the Militant Partisans of God Organization will declare its pledge to die for God's cause, targeting U.S. interests on the territory of the Arabian peninsula and the Gulf states."

The hard-line Islamic Group in Egypt and the Islamic Jihad group have also previously demanded the release of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman, threatening to attack U.S. interests.

The [Militant Partisans] organization warned the Americans, saying: "O Americans, our blessed operations will not be halted until all our demands are met, otherwise you are imposing on yourselves a relentless war...a real war that makes you know your real worth...a war to break your false arrogance."

Kingdom Offers R3-Million Reward for Bombing Info

LD1511131295 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Interior Ministry confirmed what the ministry has issued on inviting citizens and residents to cooperate with the security quarters to provide any information beneficial to the investigating authorities in revealing the identity of the perpetrators who carried out their criminal act by putting explosive materials in front of a building in al-Thalathin Street in al-'Ulayya in Riyadh region on 13 November.

The explosion resulted in the death of innocent people, others sustained various injuries, and caused huge damage to the building and adjacent buildings, as well as to the vehicles present in the same place.

The Interior Ministry stresses the importance of the citizens' and residents' cooperation in helping the investigating authorities by offering useful information. A (?worthwhile) reward estimated at 3 million riyals will be paid out to whoever provides information that helps the investigation and reveals the perpetrators of this criminal act.

The information will be treated in strict confidence. Any citizen or resident can offer his information to the security quarters in his place of residence, or to the governorate to convey it to the quarters concerned with investigating this incident, or by contacting telephone number 4419361 or telephone number 4421739.

Anyone outside the Kingdom can also contact the embassy of the Kingdom in the country in which he is in to offer what valuable information he has to the investigation. He will be rewarded by the sum of 3 million riyals when the investigation proves the authenticity of the information provided by him and the information contributes toward discovering the perpetrators.

We appeal to God to save everyone the causes of sedition, and return the evildoers' schemes to their throats. Success comes from God.

Saudi Nationals Said Behind Riyadh Bombing

JN1511130095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1206 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Riyadh, an FBI team has joined Saudi and U.S. security organs in investigating the explosion that targeted the headquarters of a U.S. military mission in the Saudi capital on Monday. The explosion killed six people, including five Americans.

Meanwhile, Saudi newspaper AL-BILAD has said that some Saudis belonging to an insignificant minority in the Saudi community are behind the Monday explosion. This is the first time an official Saudi media organ has pointed out that the perpetrators of the explosion could be Saudis.

It is noteworthy that two unknown organizations, the Tigers of the Gulf and the Islamic Movement for Change, have claimed responsibility for this explosion and called for the departure of U.S. forces from Saudi Arabia.

Paper Urges Review of Policies After Bombing

MM1611091095 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 15 Nov 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Saudi Arabia Explosion and Its Political and Security Meanings"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The huge explosion that occurred in the heart of Riyadh city against a building used by U.S. troops has confirmed a number of facts, most notably that all Arab states without exception are a target for violence and that no state or regime is outside the circle of violence.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has always boasted about its stability and security has suddenly found itself facing this alien and destructive phenomenon, which is creeping into the region forcefully. It had thought that it was immune to it and that it could be the exception in its environment.

It is difficult for us to point an accusing finger at one quarter or another, now that matters have become confused, interests complicated, and clues interlinked. However, it can be openly said that, whatever quarter hatched and planned the explosion, it chose its target very carefully and displayed extraordinary professionalism in implementation.

The danger lies not only in the explosion and its victims — and they are U.S. military experts — but also in the acquisition of advanced detonation technologies and the use of all kinds of advanced camouflage and security infiltration methods to reach the target.

It might be useful to point out that this is the first time a bombing operation has targeted U.S. forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since the second Gulf war — which reflects very serious political and religious meanings. Despite all the camouflage and concealment measures taken by these forces and the host state to avoid provoking the Saudis' national and religious feelings, the quarters that planned the explosion have succeeded — through the explosion — in bringing into the limelight this strong foreign military presence, which many people thought had disappeared after the end of its mission of removing Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

The striking thing is that numerous religious groups declared their opposition to the U.S. presence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for religious or political reasons or both, on the grounds that this presence conflicts with the country's standing and the presence of the Islamic holy places on its territory. It also conflicts with Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and independence. Numerous statements were issued demanding the departure of U.S. forces and threatening to attack them if they remain.

To say this is not to put the blame on opposition Islamic groups inside and outside Saudi Arabia. The objective is to provide a necessary background in order to try to understand what happened and what could happen in the future. Maybe the statements issued by the unknown Islamic groups that threatened to attack U.S. forces have been considered smoke screens designed to conceal local and external non-Islamic quarters working to undermine the Kingdom's stability and spark off its internal contradictions, in order to settle certain scores; this should be revealed by Saudi security men and the U.S. investigators who have rushed to Riyadh to uncover the identity of the perpetrators and the states backing them, if any.

It must be admitted that Saudi Arabia's enemies are in abundance these days. Apart from the internal Islamic fundamentalism which has been growing since the Gulf war, some quarters are dissatisfied with the hard-line Saudi position on maintaining the embargo imposed on Iraq. There is also the attempt to impose settlements in the border disputes with neighbors, especially Yemen.

It is fair also to say that Saudi Arabia's stance of opposition to normalization with Israel causes discontent among numerous parties, Arab and regional, because it embarrasses the U.S. peace sponsor.

If most eyes are focused on extremist religious groups, there are things that reinforce this view, especially in view of the fierce arrest campaign launched by Saudi security forces against these groups. Suffice it to say that more than 200 clerics and ulema are still behind bars, most notably Salman al-'Awdah, Safar al-Hawali, Yahya al-Yahya, and others. These are highly respected people among the new religious Saudi generation. Saudi authorities erred twice when dealing with them: First, by failing to release them, as they had committed no crime other than expressing their views through the mosques. Second, by refusing, or rather hesitating, to refer them to religious courts for their verdicts.

We can only join the camp opposed to terrorism and extremism and their subsequent results, namely subversion and murder of the innocent. But at the same time we urge Arab regimes that deal with their citizens as a flock of sheep and take no account of their feelings and political and legitimate rights to change this method and position, prove their independent decisionmaking, eradicate both corruption and the corrupt, and pay attention to the nation's crucial issues and work to bolster them by all means. This is the right way to confront violence, whatever its source and the quarters behind it.

The Riyadh explosion should prompt a Saudi and then Gulf revision of numerous matters and policies. The first step in this connection should be to deal with it [violence] from not only the security angle, but also the political angle in order to understand its dimensions and causes and prevent a repetition in the future. The Saudi leadership, which its opposite numbers describe as wise, is capable of understanding what we are saying, if it wants to confront this horrific reality to which it has suddenly awoken after a deep sleep.

Paper Criticizes Iraqi Press for 'Tribute to Crime'

NC1611122395 Paris AFP in English
1134 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 16 (AFP)—An official Saudi newspaper on Thursday [16 November] accused the state-run Iraqi press of welcoming the bombing of US military offices in Riyadh which killed six people.

"Nobody has paid tribute to this crime except for the press in Iraq," the official AL-YAWM daily said, adding it showed that "criminals sympathized with each other."

The daily said "the first explosion to have terrorized Riyadh was from the hateful missiles of (Iraqi President) Saddam" Husayn during the 1991 Gulf war to drive Iraqi forces from neighboring Kuwait.

"Since Saddam's missiles, the inhabitants of Riyadh have only experienced terror in the days since the explosion" of a car bomb that ripped through US army offices used to train the Saudi national guard, it said.

But it stopped short of accusing Iraq of being behind the attack.

AL-YAWM said that whatever group was involved in the attack, internal or external, it has failed to achieve its aims.

"The criminal or criminals are not achieving their aims. The reactions at home and abroad have shown they are isolated from society," AL-YAWM said.

The Iraqi press said that Monday's bombing had "shaken" the ruling Saud family although it denied any involvement in it.

The US ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Raymond Mabus, did not rule out that Iran or Iraq might have been involved, according to an interview he gave to the US television network CNN.

The official Saudi newspaper AL-BILAD said a "stray" Saudi minority could have been behind the attack.

The Islamic Movement for Change and another little-known group, Tigers of the Gulf, have both claimed responsibility for Monday's attack on the US Office for the Programme Manager of the Saudi Arabian National Guard.

The Islamic Movement for Change had threatened the US Embassy earlier in the year.

Bombing Seen as 'Sabotage for Sabotage's Sake'

MM1611143195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Nov 95 p 17

[Article by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Badrakhan: "Sabotage for Sabotage's Sake"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Everything that has been said after last Monday's Riyadh blast — that it is an action alien to Saudi society and such an unlikely thing to happen — is true. It is also true that it should not cast doubts on Saudi Arabia's security and stability, for the land is not unclaimed, nor is the country in turmoil, nor is the state absent, but instead it is in control of the situation.

It would be dangerous if this incident were to be used by some people to make wrong assumptions which, ultimately, would not serve their aims and interests. Stability is a guarantee for everyone, and the opposite a calamity for everyone. No one believes that the blast has internal connotations, but it is true that the perpetrators have taken advantage of the atmosphere of security to carry it out. Undoubtedly, the utmost alertness and caution are required to prevent such incidents from happening again. The act is "alien," which simply means that it is foreign-made and serves a foreign purpose, regional to be precise. The fact that Saudi Arabia is targeted should be a warning to various states of the region, because the policies which link them are the same. Of course, whoever threatens the eldest sister threatens the whole family.

What is noteworthy about the details of the incident is the fact that it points the finger at a specific quarter, since the Arabs' experience with this type of terrorism enables them now to analyze the technique used, in order to determine the perpetrators' identity. At the same time, one should perhaps note that techniques have combined and organs merged, to the point that the perpetrators themselves no longer know for whom they are working or "struggling," whether it still is for the quarter under whose banner they believe that they belong, or for its enemies and rivals. It is extremely easy to use slogan bearers and make them work, often for those against whom they believe they are fighting.

After the cruel experience of Lebanon, these techniques are now undoubtedly obvious, not only in their preparations, but also in their results. Sabotage anywhere always rebounds on the perpetrator whoever he is. Sabotage no longer serves any political purpose, but it surely helps to complicate matters, harden positions, and dispel the atmosphere of peace and hopes for progress and development. That is why it is difficult to detect any genuine purpose in the Riyadh blast, except for those hostile and resentful elements whose interests reside in sabotage for sabotage's sake. This approach stems however from ignorance of the nature of the environment and society in which they try to plant their evil deeds.

There are some who have hastened to make accusations and assumptions and tried to interpret the "message" that the blast planners wanted to convey. In this context the Saudi officials and investigators are right in not wanting to make predictions until they can find clues and evidence. It would have been easier to accuse Iran or Iraq, especially since most victims of the blast were Americans, and the accusation would have been plausible. However, it does not seem so far fetched to suspect Israel either, since there are many who remember how, over the years, every major Israeli incident was followed by an Arab incident of the same magnitude to deflect media attention from the former. If this is true, and it is still only pure conjecture, it would go beyond diverting attention from the repercussions of Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination and would stall Arab positions, which are still steadfast and committed to the constants of justice which should prevail in any Middle East peace. If there is a message in the wake of the blast, it is a call for the Gulf states, especially, to continue their joint action and cooperation within a united political and security framework. The experience of the peace process for the Middle Eastern Arab states clearly shows perhaps the negative side of failing to coordinate and integrate.

Paper Speculates on Background of Bombers

MM1611151795 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Maryam 'Isa: "United States Accuses Foreign Quarters of Planning Riyadh Explosion, Reconsiders Its Security in Kuwait"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — [passage omitted] A well-informed Saudi source has described the [Riyadh] explosion as a radical turning point in the kingdom's history. The source told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that "those who carried out the explosion have a very advanced security and political sense. They chose a U.S. target in the heart of Riyadh city in order to attract the biggest amount possible of world media attention and to cause a huge political furor."

The source added that, "had they chosen another target in another city, a blackout would have been imposed on the explosion, or the importance of the explosion would have been played down."

The source pointed out that the explosion "is a clear message to the Americans to the effect that the regime is not in control and unstable." And is also designed to draw attention to the fact that the arrival in Saudi Arabia of the technology of booby-trapped cars is a serious tuning point which could have repercussions. The source warned that oil installations could become potential targets in the future to ensure the largest possible amount of world publicity. The source did not rule out that those who planted the explosives could be Saudis who received training abroad or Saudi military elements dissatisfied with the regime." [passage omitted]

Yemen

Naval Patrols Take Control of Seized Red Sea Islands

MM1611121195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Nov 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Faysal Makram: "Yemeni Forces Evict Eritreans From Three Red Sea Islands"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sanaa — Informed sources said yesterday that since the day before yesterday Yemeni naval patrols have been stationed on the three Khishan islands in Yemen's territorial waters in the Red Sea. The Yemeni patrols have replaced the Eritrean military patrols that tried to seize and occupy the islands after infiltrating Yemen's territorial waters four days ago.

The sources said that the Eritrean patrols left the islands after the arrival of the Yemeni naval patrols, which combed the area in which the islands are situated and warned Eritrean patrols not to infiltrate Yemen's territorial waters again.

The al-Hudaydah-based sources, contacted by telephone from Sanaa, pointed out that the Yemeni naval forces have left a military garrison on the islands in addition to a number of patrol boats, because, before they departed following a warning from the Yemeni patrols — which have taken full control of the situation — the Eritrean patrols claimed that these islands are Eritrean.

Sanaa deemed the incident a transitory one, and official, military, and security circles declined to provide any information about it.

As is known, this is not the first time Eritrean naval patrols have infiltrated Yemen's territorial waters. A few months ago they detained held a number of Yemeni fishing boats and their crews, refusing to release them on the pretext that they had been fishing in Eritrea's territorial waters. The incident was contained within diplomatic channels. [passage omitted]

Regime Said Willing To Accept 'Amended' 986

NC1511161295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Saddam's regime today expressed willingness to accept the Security Council resolution regarding the sale of $1 billion worth of Iraqi oil every three months if the conditions which the regime considers to be infringing on its sovereignty are amended. This follows the calls made to the Iraqi regime recently to accept Security Council Resolution 968 regarding the sale of oil in exchange for food.

The official newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH claims that the Baghdad regime does not refuse any serious initiative as long as it is a step toward the early implementation of paragraph 22 of Resolution 986.

The Security Council passed Resolution 968 in April. It authorized the ruling Iraqi regime to export a limited quantity of its oil worth $2 billion over a period of six months. The Baghdad regime strongly rejected the resolution at the time, but it did not specify if it was willing to accept a modified version of the resolution.

FBI Reportedly To Request Meetings With Saddam

JN1611120195 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-DUSTUR has learned that the U.S. Embassy in Amman has sent a memorandum to the Jordanian Foreign Ministry relaying a request by the U.S. Justice Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI] to arrange for a meeting between FBI officials and the Iraqi President as well as with Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil as part of U.S. investigations into the National Bank (Laforo) case regarding charges of forgery and other major crimes.

The memorandum said that the Iraqi President and Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil are not the target of the probe, but the U.S. Justice Department believes they may provide important information on the involvement of some U.S. citizens and companies in various law violations.

It has been learned that U.S. Justice Department lawyers and FBI officials will conduct this meeting.

U.S. Delegation Confers With Kurdish Officials

NC1511200095 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday morning, Brother Jalal Talabani, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] secretary general, received in his office in Irbil, a U.S. delegation led by Robert Deutsch, official in charge of the north Gulf desk at the State Department, [title as heard], Steve Grumman, from the U.S. National Security Council; (Suzanna Bonn), political adviser to the International Alliance Forces; and the political adviser of the U.S. Embassy to Turkey. Also attending the meeting were Kusrat Rasul 'Ali, Jabbar Farman, Feridun 'Abd-al-Qadir, and 'Umar 'Abdallah, PUK Political Bureau members; Daru al-Shaykh Nuri, Dr. Barham Salih, Muhammad Tawfiq Rahim, and Sa'di Ahmad Pira, members of the PUK Foreign Relations Bureau; and Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi, chairman of the Executive Council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress.

It should be recalled that the U.S. delegation is currently visiting Kurdistan to continue U.S. efforts aimed at addressing the pending differences between the PUK and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP].

Afterwards, Kusrat Rasul 'Ali, Jabbar Farman, Muhammad Tawfiq Rahim, Dr. Barham Salih, Sa'di Ahmad Pira, Ahmad al-Jalabi, and a Turkish Government observer received the U.S. delegation members. The two sides held another round of talks yesterday evening in which they examined in detail the pending differences between the PUK and the KDP and ways to address them.

KDP Condemns U.S. Delegation's Visit

JN1511202795 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Political Bureau of the [pro-government] Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] has condemned the United States' blatant intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs and its encroachment on Iraq's national sovereignty.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY today, an official spokesman for the KDP Political Bureau added: The continuous U.S. violations of Iraq's sovereignty and national security reflects disregard for all international norms and international law.

The spokesman went on to say: The illegal entry into the Kurdistan Autonomous Region by Robert Deutsch, head of the northern Gulf section in the U.S. State Department [title as heard], which smacks of methods used by thieves and outlaws, is part of the illegitimate U.S. interference in our national affairs. This confirms the evil U.S. intentions against Iraq's security and stability and promotes instability in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region.

The spokesman said: While strongly condemning this hostile move, the KDP would like to reiterate to the whole world that our Kurdish people in Iraq have strong convictions about Iraq's unity. They are determined to walk behind the banner of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him.

Paper Denounces U.S. 'Malicious Moves' in North

NC1611095095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 16 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH states that the U.S. Administration's renewed suspicious and malicious moves in northern Iraq are a fervent attempt to jump ahead of and [word indistinct] the proposed national solutions that advocate dialogue and discussion. The paper describes these moves as utter piracy, recklessness, and impertinent interference.

AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says in an article today that the new American move seeks to exert more pressure and maintain its domination of the region to serve the hostile scheme targeted against Iraq, both its Arabs and Kurds, and to prevent the Kurdish parties from falling back in the national line. This is particularly true because the move accompanies significant developments that have strong implications and [words indistinct].

High-ranking American official Robert Deutsch, heading the northern Gulf desk at the State Department, illegally [words indistinct] to Iraq and [word indistinct] the rebels on behalf of the American government. The paper emphasized that this line of conduct is strongly rejected and [word indistinct], since it clearly and blatantly violates international laws and charters; it is also outright and impertinent interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

The paper points out that this conduct exposes the growing confusion and blundering of the U.S. Administration, which has failed to achieve any of its goals or win any of its wagers because it burned its cards and because of the escalating indignation of its hateful [word indistinct]. All the Kurdish people have reaped from this was more blood, disturbances, chaos, [word indistinct] of the law, and [word indistinct] the law of thieves and murderers.

AL-THAWRAH emphasizes that [words indistinct] and healing the wounds of northern Iraq can be done primarily by restoring the legitimate authority there, ending the rebellion, categorically and resolutely rejecting foreign interference, and returning the Kurdish parties to the national rank so that they can partake of [word indistinct] Iraq with the wealth and blessings of their country. Every man who cherishes his country's well-being, security, and stability knows this, the paper says.

SAIRI Cautious on Anti-Saddam Military Field Command

MM1511153695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Nov 95 p 5

[Report by Ghassan al-Tahir: "Speaking to AL-HAYAH on Iraqi Opposition, al-Hakim says: Agreement on Military Action Against Regime, But Field Command Premature"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran — Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has said that "it is still premature to talk about forming a military field command to topple (President) Saddam Husayn's regime. What we have reached with the various parties in the opposition is an agreement on the principle of the need for military action in the field to bring about change in Iraq."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH al-Hakim stressed that "the field command to be formed later should be comprised of the main forces on the Iraqi scene possessing real capabilities and resources. And the main moves should be launched from the south and from Iraqi Kurdistan, coupled with moves in the central areas." He stressed the need "for cooperation with the Iraqi Army, which has shown signs of willingness to participate in a field command."

However, he said that "this matter has not yet been discussed with Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, although the delegation that represented him in Tehran recently in the framework of the talks with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan expressed support for the need for field action."

On his opinion of the plan of the former Iraqi official General Husayn Kamil, namely to unite Iraqi opposition forces under "a higher national salvation council in Iraq," al-Hakim said: "We have our own plan as regards action in the field and the formation of a field command. We believe that the Iraqi people's interests lie in implementing this plan. What we hear here or there about some plans does not seem to be realistic and is promoted by certain quarters. I feel that there are more lies than truths when such plans are presented."

He declined to confirm or deny reports that Husayn Kamil had asked to meet with him and to visit to Tehran. He just said that "no one has contacted me directly."

Al-Hakim said that "the continuation of the dispute and the conflict between the two main Kurdish factions in Iraqi Kurdistan is inflicting great harm on national, Kurdish, and even regional interests." He pointed out that "the best way to achieve reconciliation is to pursue a phased policy instead of trying to obtain everything all at once."

He stressed the importance of "the existence of — even relative — mutual trust between Barzani and (Jalal) Talabani." He cast doubt on "the seriousness of the U.S. endeavors and policy on Iraq, especially with regard to the desire to change conditions in Iraq."

He said that "Washington's aim is to dominate Iraq." He praised the role of "the regional states, especially Turkey, Syria, and Iran, which have made efforts to prevent Iraqi Kurdistan turning into a center for aggression against one state or another. And they have earnestly worked to prevent Iraqi Kurdistan becoming an independent and region separate from Iraq."

Al-Hakim described as "good and positive Jordan's joining of the states which believe in the need for change in Iraq." However, he said that "what is being said about plans attributed to Jordan or others seems to be vague and gives rise to numerous questions about their characteristics and details."

SAIRI Defends Badr Forces Presence in North

JN1511160195 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1315 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a recent interview with the ANATOLIA NEWS AGENCY of Turkey, Ayatollah al-Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], said that the Western media storm over the presence of the Badr forces in northern Iraq is unrealistic, causing surprise and amazement, especially regarding fears expressed by the Turkish Government in this regard.

His eminence said: Let us suppose that these forces exist there. What prevents their presence on Iraqi territory to fight the regime of the tyrant, and why should the Ankara government express its concern over this issue?

His eminence went on to say: In my previous talks with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel in Tehran three years ago, our views were identical on the Baghdad regime. Therefore, I am surprised at this sort of concern and clamor.

On another topic in the interview, his eminence spoke about the latest talks between SAIRI and the Iraqi Kurdish opposition groups and the agreements reached concerning the unified field work to topple the tyrant's regime, taking into consideration the interests of the Iraqi people's ethnic and religious groups because, his eminence added, we do not believe in a denominational regime but a regime where all citizens are equal in rights and duties. We defend with the same strength the rights of the Iraqi people—Kurds, Turkmen, Arabs, Sunnis and Shiites, and other denominations. his eminence said.

In conclusion, the SAIRI chairman said that our struggling forces have had an active presence in Kurdistan since 1980 and that we have been fighting the Saddam regime by the side of our Kurdish brothers ever since. Therefore, I advise the Ankara government to abandon the clamor of the West which has ambitions in Iraq and the region as a whole.

Opposition Official Escapes Bomb Blast in Irbil

NC1511183395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Iraqi opposition group has stated that a military official of the Iraqi opposition escaped unharmed when a bomb exploded in northern Iraq. However, his wife and child were injured in the blast.

The Unified Iraqi National Congress has announced that the bomb was placed in the garden of the house of a senior opposition officer in Irbil, which is controlled by the Kurds. An opposition source has stressed that the incident is the work of Saddam Husayn regime's intelligence agents.

'Udayy Husayn Attends Cultural Awards Ceremony

JN1511185295 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video from the "Evening Newspaper" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the presence of Mr. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Iraqi Cultural Forum, Iraqi intellectuals today marked the first month anniversary of the Great March Day, and the third anniversary of the forum under the motto "Creativity is Further Refined by Love for Saddam and Iraq."

At the beginning of the grand ceremony, students of the Faculty of Fine Arts and the School of Music and Ballet gave an orchestral and choral performance entitled "Great Iraq." Poet 'Ali Imarah recited a poem on the occasion.

The students of the Physical Training Girls College performed on the occasion. They sang the chorus of the song "Saddam, You are the People's Love," which was written by poet Karim al-'Iraqi, composed by Ja'far al-Khaffaf, and sung by singers Fadil and Fawziyah.

Later, the Faculty of Fine Arts students sang international songs; the Physical Training College students gave a gymnastic display; and the Arab Music Band affiliated with the School of Music performed folkloric dances.

Members of the Society of Folkloric Poets and Songwriters sang a song called "The President is in the Heart." It was sung by an elite group of folkloric poets, who put on a splendid performance, expressing great affection for the great leader Saddam Husayn.

The students of the Faculty of Fine Arts recited the poem "My Land," which was written by Ra'd Bander, the poet of the "Mother of Battles," composed by Faruq Hilal, and distributed by 'Abdallah Jamal.

Afterward, Mr. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn distributed awards for the winners of the creativity contest from among members of the Cultural Forum and chief editors of local newspapers.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, Mr. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Iraqi Cultural Forum, inaugurated four exhibitions held by the Association of Iraqi Photographers, the Association of Press-Related Professions, the Association of Iraqi Plastic Art Specialists, and the Union of Iraqi Writers.

The exhibitions included photographs, books, and art pieces epitomizing the Iraqis' support for and allegiance to the matchless leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn on the Great March Day.

It should be recalled that the membership of the Iraqi Cultural Forum totals 27,185 distributed as follows:

Journalists	1,400
Press-related employees	603
Writers and authors	570
Musicians	1,833
Plastic art specialists	715
Photographers	13,508
Broadcasters	160
Literary writers	4,093
Playwrights	590
Radio station employees	2,753
Folkloric poets	1,800

Some 13,110 pensioners are receiving benefits from the Cultural Forum.

Weizman Officially Appoints Peres Prime Minister

NC1511181495 Paris AFP in English
1810 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Nov 15 (AFP) — President 'Ezer Weizman on Wednesday [15 November] officially appointed Labour leader Shim'on Peres as Israel's new prime minister and asked him to form a government.

Peres Tasked With Forming New Government

TA1511192795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1900 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Ezer Weizman has entrusted Shim'on Peres with the task of forming a government, saying he was thus extending his full support to Peres to pursue the peace process. Weizman used the occasion to remember the late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. I hope we will be wise enough to uproot from our midst all traces of the distorted view that caused the grave tragedy that befell us and that we will find a way to increase understanding and unity in the nation, he said.

Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres thanked the president, and said he felt very sad about the circumstances that brought about this occasion. He added that he will make every possible effort to form a government that will enhance peace with our neighbors and in our own midst.

Replying to a question by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz, President Weizman said that the notion of a unity government was theoretically wonderful but not feasible.

Moledet Opposed to Peres Forming Government

TA1511150295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1400 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives of Moledet conferred with President 'Ezer Weizman, and told him they were opposed to him entrusting the task of forming a government to Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Knesset Member [MK] Rehav'am Ze'evi, head of the faction, told our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller that Peres' way is the greatest catastrophe of the last generation, seeing that Peres is the architect and leader of the Oslo process which, in his opinion, is leading to a withdrawal from the territories dominating western Eretz Yisra'el. Ze'evi also fears that Peres might bring about a withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for a peace agreement with Syria.

In another half hour the president will meet the representatives of the Arab Democratic Party. He will wrap up his sessions with the representatives of all parties with a meeting with MK Sha'ul Gutman of the Yemin Yisra'el faction.

Memad Leader Reportedly Accepts Ministerial Post

TA1611105695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
16 Nov 95 p 11

[Report by Menahem Rahat and Ben Kaspit]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Rabbi Yehuda 'Amital of Jerusalem, leader of the dovish Zionist-religious movement Memad, will join the cabinet as minister without portfolio. This was agreed on last night in a private meeting Rabbi 'Amital held with Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. Initially, Peres wanted to give 'Amital the religious affairs portfolio, but the rabbi unequivocally announced that he is not interested in it because "it is nothing but trouble."

Despite the rabbi's clear reservations, Peres would not give up and suggested that 'Amital be appointed minister without portfolio in his cabinet. This move will give the government a traditional Jewish aspect it has been missing since SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] left the coalition. Peres said he is grieving over the fact that no religious party is represented in the government and that there is no religious minister.

Rabbi 'Amital, aged 71, who is the head of the Har 'Etzyon hesder yeshiva in the 'Etzyon Bloc, willingly accepted Peres' offer.

The two have not yet made final agreements on the tasks Rabbi 'Amital will perform, but he will apparently replace the late Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur in his capacity as a liaison between the government and the settlers.

'Amital will also focus on promoting Memad's plan for the permanent settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, known as the Blocs Plan, according to which all Jewish settlements will be concentrated in blocs. [passage omitted]

NRP Reportedly To Abstain in No-Confidence Vote

TA1511163595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Ezer Weizman has wrapped up his consultations with all the Knesset factions and invited Shim'on Peres to his residence to entrust him with the task of forming a new government. Our correspondent Yitzhaq Feller reports that Mr. Peres is due at the presidential residence at 2000 [1800 GMT].

Earlier, representatives of the Arab Democratic Party recommended that the president entrust the job of forming a government to Peres, while Sha'ul Gutman of the Yemin Yisra'el faction told him he did not support Peres or his policy and that he would not support his government in the Knesset.

Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel has learned that Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is contemplating the inclusion in his new government of Rabbi Yehuda 'Amital of Memad [dovish religious movement]. The two are currently meeting in Peres' office.

After meeting Shim'on Peres, the National Religious Party [NRP] announced that it would not join his government, but Zvulun Hammer said that his party may abstain in votes of no confidence in the government in the coming year if understandings are reached in the political sphere.

Labor Secretary Nisim Zvili met this afternoon with Minister Gonen Segev and Deputy Minister Alex Goldfarb of YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel], who told him that they want to merge with Labor after YI'UD completes its internal procedures and after the Knesset House Committee approves its split into two factions: theirs and that of Ester Salmovich. After the meeting Zvili told our correspondent Yaron Deqel that he was told by Segev and Goldfarb that they will continue to support the new Peres government.

Netanyahu Interviewed on Rabin's Murder, Likud

BR1511141295 Milan IL SOLE 24 ORE in Italian 15 Nov 95 p 3

[Interview with Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu by Ugo Tramballi in Jerusalem; date not given: "Netanyahu: This Is Not the Kind of Peace We Want"; first five paragraphs are IL SOLE-24 ORE introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jerusalem — [passage omitted] [Tramballi] Is there really nothing that you regret having said in these past two years?

[Netanyahu] Each of us could have acted differently. But to try to accuse us of criminal association just because Rabin's assassination was perpetrated by the front opposed to the peace process is reminiscent of antidemocratic practices. I want to be clear about this: It is intolerable for someone to try to impose his own viewpoint by recourse to violence. When terrorism strikes I always say: I am not concerned whether the terrorist's cause is right or wrong. The means used to support it is unacceptable. But it is pure McCarthyism to denigrate our opinions by comparing them to those of Rabin's assassin.

[Tramballi] So do you think that there are no differences between Yigal Amir, the assassin, and the terrorists of the Islamic jihad?

[Netanyahu] A murder is a murder.

[Tramballi] Do you not fear a crisis within the Likud Party?

[Netanyahu] No, I am worried that the political leaders will miss the opportunity to strengthen the country's unity. Someone is clearly trying to exploit Rabin's tragedy to undermine the legitimacy of a great party that represents half the Israeli people.

[Tramballi] But you accused the Rabin government of being illegitimate because it used the votes of the Arab deputies in parliament to gain approval of the peace process.

[Netanyahu] I never mentioned the Arabs. There are Arab citizens of Israel who support the Likud Party. The government has every legal right, because it was elected by a majority. My argument was that the future of Zionism cannot be determined by a margin of a single vote. Technically it is possible, but it would be prudent for democracy to seek a broader consensus on the country's major options.

[Tramballi] Rabin was killed because of his peace policy. But this policy continues.

[Netanyahu] We, too, want a stable peace. But this will exist once we have guarantees stronger than mere declarations. 'Arafat is still talking about the liberation of Palestine — not only Gaza and the West Bank, but also Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa. We have serious doubts about this peace process so lightly supported worldwide. Doubts about our partners' intentions, doubts about our ability to defend ourselves. As far as we are concerned, peace means autonomy for the Palestinians and security for Israel. Even though we reached agreement with Peres on making the tone of the political debate more civilized, our differences have not disappeared with Rabin's murder. This, because the critical issues for our future — Jerusalem; the borders; security; water; and above all, as far as I am concerned, Israel's identity — will return very forcefully in the months ahead.

[Tramballi] In what form?

[Netanyahu] First, we must ask ourselves: Is there a way of finding some common ground? If the answer is "no," we must decide how to decide on such important issues. I am convinced that the government wants peace, but it is from peace that we are tragically moving away. I do not doubt its good intentions for a moment, nor do I think that the government doubts mine. But the subject of contention is a tough one, and the debate will be tough too. We will not resolve this by undermining the adversary's legitimacy.

[Tramballi] Would you be willing to talk even with 'Arafat? If you won the elections, would you call into question the accords with the Palestinians?

[Netanyahu] We will hold discussions with every Arab who shows that he is sincerely convinced of Israel's existence. Just as we did with al-Sadat and King Husayn. As for Palestinian autonomy, we are not blind: We must take account of what has happened on the ground. Agreements must be observed. But the Palestinians have already committed 300 violations, according to the government itself.

[Tramballi] Do you still regard 'Arafat as a terrorist?

[Netanyahu] Our objections concern not 'Arafat but his behavior. We want real changes, not statements.

Ministers Propose To Establish Anti-Incitement Team

TA1611110295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir says that Israeli democracy is fragile and that the assassination was one symptom of its frailty. Therefore, we will be unable to tolerate incitement that we used to believe could be stemmed by democracy, he said.

The attorney general announced that the justice and police ministers will submit a proposal to the government regarding a combined team that will enforce the law against inciters. The team will be manned by police, army, and state attorney's office personnel.

Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that Attorney General Ben- Ya'ir made these remarks at the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee, which discussed the struggle against seditious elements.

Yemin Yisra'el Movement's Platform, Membership Detailed

TA1611113095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 16 Nov 95 p 4

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Will the extreme right-wing movement Yemin Yisra'el, headed by Knesset Member [MK] Sha'ul Gutman, end up like the Kakh list, formerly headed by Rabbi Me'ir Kahana, and be outlawed by the Knesset? Will the Supreme Court stop it?

Left-wing MK's — led by Dedi Zucker, chairman of the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee, and Hagay Merom, chairman of the Knesset House Committee — have vowed to make every possible legal and constitutional effort to frustrate the intentions of this "racist and antidemocratic list," as they put it, to run in the 14th Knesset elections. At the same time, MK Gutman, a Technion professor who quit Rehav'am Ze'evi's Moledet movement, promises his party will be elected to the Knesset and by a large number of votes. [passage omitted]

Yemin Yisra'el's platform is based on a single principle: "The State of Israel is the country of the Jewish nation." Its other stands stem from this principle and are described in 10 clauses, which include:

— Support for the transfer of Arabs: "to complete the exchange of populations that started in the late 1940's when most of the Jews from Arab countries were absorbed and established in Israel, while Israel's enemies resettled in their countries."

— Legally banning territorial concessions and annexing all of the territories: "Eretz Yisra'el belongs exclusively to the Jewish nation and is indivisible; the state's sovereignty will be applied immediately to all of Eretz Yisra'el's territories; and the ban on ceding territories under the state's sovereignty will be anchored in a basic law."

— Promoting the imminent construction of the Third Temple on the Temple Mount: "Temple Mount is the heart of the Jewish nation, and building our temple there is a primary national goal."

— To make the right to elect and be elected to the Knesset subject to "taking an oath of allegiance to the State of Israel as a Jewish state," and more. [passage omitted]

The opposing MK's are particularly upset by the list of the 100 founding members, among whom certain former members of Kahana's Kakh movement stand out: Attorney Rahamim Kohen, a secular Jew who was third on Kahana's list of Knesset candidates; Itamar Ben-Gvir, aged 18 and a half, who organized summer camps for Kakh-supporting youths and escaped being sent to prison with Barukh Marzel and No'am Federman only because he was underaged, and who is No. 14 on Yemin Yisra'el's list; Yo'el Lerner, sixth on the list, was the leader of the Gal underground and served three prison terms for activities and plans to harm mosques on the Temple Mount. Other listed members affiliated with the extreme right are Miryam Lapid of Qiryat Arba', who lost her husband Mordekhay and son Shalom in a terror attack in Hebron, and Ze'ev Karoz, a former intelligence man who, together with Sha'ul Gutman and others, established the Mishmeret Shalom movement. Other people on the list are university and yeshiva students mostly from central Israel. Very few are settlers from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

"This is a list of Kakh and Eyal members in a respectable disguise," MK Merom said. "This is a list of former members of outlawed terror organizations. There is no room in the Knesset for such a list." [passage omitted]

Peres Says Redeployment at 'Very Fragile' Stage

TA1511124495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, standing on a hill over the Green Line amid heavy security, told reporters yesterday that the peace process was going through a very fragile stage now that redeployment is under way close to the center of the country.

"This is a very fragile chapter with very great political and security sensitivity," he said.

Peres praised the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] smooth withdrawal from Janin "six days ahead of time" on Monday [13 November] and said the question was now how to shape the future borders, even if they are temporary. "The question is whether there has to be separation," Peres said.

"But usually our security forces will be along the line. What means they will prefer — fences, guards or walls or another system of relations — we will have to weigh very carefully."

He hinted that future withdrawals would be conditional. "We told the Palestinians that we intend to draw all the necessary conclusions from the first attempt to realize the agreement," he said.

Before the end of this month, the IDF is scheduled to withdraw from Tulkarm and Qalqilyah, both on the Green Line close to the heartland of Israel.

Both are to have industrial parks to create employment, which Peres said is essential to Palestinian political stability.

Yesterday, 230 more Palestinian policemen entered Janin, bringing the total there to more than 650, out of a planned 1,000. Today, many of them are to be deployed in five police stations outside Janin itself in Area B, where they will be responsible for civil order.

Journalists were screened at one location before boarding buses to the press briefing site. IDF sharpshooters were poised behind an earthen embankment as Peres spoke.

When he walked, a phalanx of heavily armed security men accompanied him.

Earlier Peres visited areas along the Green Line between Qalqilyah and Tulkarm, the District Coordination Office five kilometers south of Janin, and the army camp of Mevo Dotan, 10 km. south of Janin, where Israeli police, the civil administration and the army are now located.

He was accompanied there by Police Minister Moshe Shahal, the Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq, and the head of the General Security Service.

Peres touched on the assassination of prime minister Yitzhaq Rabin only once in answer to a question about the responsibility of rabbis who may have encouraged the terrorist attack against Israel's senior elected official.

He said that it was wrong to generalize, but "being a rabbi does not exempt him from the law. I don't generalize, but I don't cover up."

Referring to Palestinian violence, Peres said he was convinced the PLO saw that its interest lay in discouraging terror. "If terror continues, the Palestinian Authority [PA] will not be able to hold itself together," he said, adding he welcomed the PA talks with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] if they ended violence. "If the agreement means that Hamas ends terror, I say welcome to the club. Hamas without rifles is not Hamas." [passage omitted]

Knesset Issues Statement of Confidence in Shin Bet

TA1511125995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Yosi Sarid informed the Knesset on behalf of the government that the government will fully embrace all the conclusions of the state commission of inquiry probing the Shin Bet operations in connection with the prime minister's assassination. Minister Sarid said that until the commission conclusions are published, there is a need to stabilize and strengthen the Shin Bet.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Knesset has issued a unanimous statement saying that the government and the Knesset have confidence in, support, and rely on Shin Bet personnel.

Law Student Said 'Dominant Force' in 'Amir Group

TA1511183395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Twenty-year-old Margalit Har-Shefi, a second-year law student at Bar-Ilan University, has been remanded into custody for another 12 days by the Petah Tiqva Magistrate's Court. She is suspected of being the main dominant force behind the organization set up to assassinate the prime minister and attack Arabs. She is suspected of failing to prevent a crime, conspiring to commit a crime, and being part of an illegal organization. The judge ruled that the confidential material submitted to him substantiates the suspicion that the assassin Yig'al 'Amir did not act alone. Margalit Har-Shefi denied the accusations, and demanded that the ban on her meeting with an attorney be lifted.

Our correspondent Yafa Glick points out that the suspect was detained for two days last week and released, but new information obtained by the investigators again led to her and she was detained this morning.

EYAL Leader Released on Bail, Under House Arrest

TA1511163395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Avishay Raviv, leader of EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem], has been released on bail but will remain under house arrest for a week. The investigation of him will continue as necessary. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky points out that Raviv was arrested at the beginning of last week after the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Weapons Cache Found in Hebron Area Village

TA1611121395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A large cache of weapons has been uncovered in the village of Dayr Razih in the vicinity of Har Hevron. Among the items uncovered were Carl Gustav submachine guns, carbines, a hunting gun, and two handguns, as well as bags and boxes full of ammunition.

Samaria and Judaea District Police detectives, along with a Border Police undercover unit, raided the cache last night. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that two local residents were detained. They are suspected of trading in weapons and ammunition. The possibility that the weapons were used in terrorist attacks is being investigated.

Possibility of Iraq's Joining Peace Process Viewed

TA1511124095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Nov 95 p 5

[Commentary by Pinhas Inbari]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The decision of Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres not to push for early elections has ramifications not only domestically, but for the whole Middle East. It implies that Peres is determined to continue the peace process to the end — not only to fulfill the Oslo 2 agreements, but to work hard to reach understandings with other parties, mainly Syria.

The Americans are again trying to add President Hafiz Al-Asad to the growing list of Arab leaders willing to meet Israeli officials openly. However, we cannot ignore the possibility of a big surprise from the direction of Baghdad.

Minister of Economy and Planning Yosi Beilin last month told the Palestinian bi-weekly AL-'AWDAH in an interview that he was eyeing Iraq, even under Saddam Husayn, as a potential partner for peace negotiations. Beilin simply demanded that Iraq comply with the UN resolutions and obligations arising from the Gulf War to be considered as an interlocutor with Israel.

"This finally would solve the eastern front problem for us," Beilin said, as he outlined the advantages of peace with Iraq.

Of course the credibility of Saddam Husayn remains gravely in doubt. Nevertheless, Israel must take account of some positive aspects in Iraq's Palestinian policy.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz of Iraq said last month that his government does not support terrorist organizations, and its policy was to leave it to the Palestinians to decide on their handling of the peace process.

'Aziz did not specifically mention Syria, but he was clearly indicating an Iraqi attitude different from that of Damascus. After all, Syria supports the groups radically opposed to the peace process and hostile to Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, and it supplies backing for Hizbullah operations in South Lebanon.

Iraq long ago got rid of Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], while pro- Iraqi Palestinian organizations like the Arab Liberation Front (following an internal split) now support the PA. Several reports suggest that Iraq, although under UN sanctions, has even managed to extend some modest financial aid to the PA.

In the Middle East, the unexpected should always be expected. There is a strong possibility that some of Israel's new friends in the Gulf — especially Qatar and Oman — are advising Peres's government to take a gamble with Iraq.

It was discovered during the recent Amman economic summit that Saudi Arabia — probably in coordination with Syria — had to exert a huge effort to halt the headlong gallop of the emirate and the sultanate towards normalization with Israel.

It was significant that high-level delegations from Qatar and Oman were at Yitzhaq Rabin's funeral, while Riyadh refrained from taking this giant leap.

Normalizing relations with Israel is only one bone of contention among Gulf monarchs — the other is joint policy on Iraq.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait remain strongly opposed to Iraq under Saddam Husayn, while Qatar and Oman have restored relations.

These two states are also the ones in the Gulf Cooperation Council that are most friendly to Jordan. If this line develops, the Middle East could witness a most astonishing development.

It is the old pro-Iraqi coalition led by front-runners Qatar and Oman, that is most resolute in moving towards peace with Israel. Saddam's two other oddball allies during the Gulf War, Yemen and Sudan, have of late also shown some positive signs towards Israel.

Yemen attended the Amman economic summit, and — even more strange — Khartoum issued a statement following the assassination of Rabin.

It did say it was not specifically condemning the murder of the prime minister of Israel, but all political assassination in principle.

Yet the gesture may be regarded as one of good will during Israel's darkest hour — and from what has been considered a member of the fundamentalist rejectionist states. None of this means we are about to see Saddam Husayn leaping into the peace process.

There are many people with many serious doubts about the credibility of Iraq's troublesome dictator. The United States is foremost among them and has many good reasons for preferring Syria over Iraq. On the other hand, Peres is short of time.

If the next round of American talks with Damascus fails again we may yet see Peres trying to convince Bill Clinton to give him the green light to explore the Iraqi track.

King Receives Rabin's Gift, Peres Letter

JN1411211195 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] In al-'Aqabah, the king met director of the office of the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin [Etan Habber], who carried his gift to the king on his birthday.

Habber was accompanied by the Israeli ambassador to Jordan, Shim'on Shamir. He handed his majesty a letter from the acting Israeli Premier Shim'on Peres. Peres expressed his good wishes to the king on his birthday, and asserted his country's determination to work toward a comprehensive peace in the region.

Habber conveyed to his majesty the congratulations of Rabin's family and presented him Rabin's gift. [passage omitted]

[Begin Husayn recording] Because in this very house, in this very room that I met a dear, departed friend so many times in our joint effort to achieve one of our dearest wishes and dreams — peace between our two countries and nations within the context of a comprehensive peace. His loss is a very, very personal one, to me, to you, to all who had the privilege and pleasure of knowing him. For he was a man of honor, a man of courage, a man of vision, and a man of principle. And he had the gift of seeing beyond today to tomorrow, and dedicating his life for it to the future generations and their interest, and thus we met [words indistinct] to defend the closest of friends. I always miss my brother and my friend, but I believe that his spirit will always be with us, and if there is anything that I can commit to, as I have done so far, for the rest life, is to work for what he worked, for what we have fought together. [end recording]

The king again reiterated his commitment to peace after the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Husayn] We will not waver in the face of what happened, that we must redouble our efforts to achieve the only one purpose which is comprehensive peace in this region. And certainly as far as peace between Jordan and Israel, it is not only a reality but a reality of which we are proud and it grows with the passage of every day. And Yitzhaq Rabin will always be remembered by all of us, and he will always be with us in his constructive, courageous spirit. And I wish his family all the wishes of their family here, including myself, at this time, may God give assistance to accept his will and to look to the future with determination and hope. Thank you very much.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your Majesty, what can you tell to the people of Israel nowadays?

[Husayn] I can tell them that my late friend left them a legacy, left all of us a legacy of peace, and I hope very, very much indeed that all of us will rise to the level of the challenge and redouble our efforts for the sake of all the generations to come in our region and certainly in our countries.

[Unidentified correspondent] Thank you very much. [video shows Habber presenting model of the Dome of the Rock to King Husayn] [end recording]

Al-Kabariti: Kings Husayn, Fahd To Meet 'Soon'

JN1611084895 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 16 Nov 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that His Majesty King Husayn and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, are expected to hold a meeting soon.

In statements to AL-ASWAQ, al-Kabariti noted that the meeting between the two Arab leaders is expected to take place within the next few days, especially after the telephone conversation His Majesty King Husayn held with his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Asked about Jordan's participation in the Barcelona summit scheduled for the end of this month, the foreign minister said the government committee formed for this purpose under his excellency the prime minister has been meeting nearly every day to map out the Jordanian stand and the elements of the speech that will be delivered at the summit.

He said that the speech will focus on the three main issues of the Barcelona summit; namely, the political and security issue, the social and humanitarian issue, and the economic and financial issue.

On the latest developments regarding the property of Jordanian absentees, al-Kabariti said diplomatic contacts through ambassadors are still going on between Jordan and Israel to reach a consensus on this issue, which was mentioned in the peace treaty between the two countries.

The Jordanian Government had presented an official memorandum to Israel through the Jordanian ambassador in Tel Aviv. The memorandum demands cancellation of the interpretation by the Israeli Knesset when it ratified the peace treaty. This interpretation stipulates making Jordanian property in Israel owned prior to the peace treaty subject to the absentee property law issued by Israel after 1948.

Al-Kabariti denied that Jordan mediated between Qatar and Bahrain regarding their border dispute them during His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's recent visit to Manama.

Iraqi Firms Reportedly Ordered To Close

TA1511155595 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 14 Nov 95 pp 1, 14

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH — AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH has learned that the Jordanian Government yesterday requested that Iraqi companies as well as companies with Iraqi capital liquidate their activities and leave Jordan within two months. Sources in these companies said that they received official letters from the Ministry of Industry and Trade warning them about the need to liquidate their activities within two months, as of 15 November. The ministry also sent similar warnings to Jordanian and Iraqi offices that organize the export of various goods and products to Iraq. Government sources said that there is no relation between these measures and the political situation. They added that these were organizational measures related to Jordan's adherence to international resolutions. They refer to Security Council resolutions extending the blockade imposed on Iraq. The sources denied that these measures had any political significance. [passage omitted]

In another development, sources in the Jordanian Foreign Ministry said that the Jordanian Government has officially asked the Iraqi Embassy to reduce the staff in their diplomatic mission in Amman to 18 instead of the current number which exceeds 50.

In another development in the Iraqi sphere, AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH has learned that General Husayn Kamil recently signed an agreement with the U.S. General Electric Company to set up a radio station, beamed to Iraq, at a cost of 25 million dollars. Jordan has refused to set up this opposition radio station on the Jordan-Iraq border, but Damascus has agreed to set it up on the Syria-Iraq border. Sources close to the Iraqi opposition in Amman said that Washington promised Husayn Kamil that it would try to finance this radio station from the frozen Iraqi assets in the United States.

Paper: Better Arabian Ties Based on Security

JN1611091395 Amman THE STAR in English 16-22 Nov 95 p 1

["Special to THE STAR" by Ahmad Shakir: "Jordan and Gulf States Heal Old Wounds"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The process of restoring relations between Jordan and the Gulf states has been running at a high pace in the last few weeks. However, the process will gain momentum in next month's historic meeting between King Husayn and King Fahd in Jeddah.

This bilateral summit will open a new chapter in the relationship between the two countries. The meeting will come after months of preliminary talks, including a conference in Washington between King Husayn and Prince Sultan, the meeting of Jordan's Foreign Minister al-Kabariti with his Saudi counterpart Sa'ud al-Faysal in Jeddah and the arrival of the Saudi Ambassador, 'Abdallah al-Sudayri to Jordan this week, who will present his credentials to King Husayn today, Thursday.

In addition, Jordan will receive the Saudi Foreign Minister later this month.

King Husayn promptly phoned King Fahd to express his grief at the explosion which destroyed the National Guards buildings in Riyadh on Monday. During the phone call King Husayn said the Jordanian troops were at Saudi Arabia's disposal.

Likewise, Jordan-Kuwait relations are also on the road to recovery. Although the reconciliation process is slower on this track, analyst say relations should be normal by the middle of next year.

Security is becoming a major reason behind the recent accceleration in improving Jordanian-Gulf relations.

The Middle East peace process is believed to have dug a wedge into inter-GCC relations. Saudi Arabia is resisting US moves to highlight its role in he peace process, while Kuwait's position is unclear and Qatar and Oman support economic relations with Israel.

In addition, Gulf War divisions continue to plague the GCC especially in terms of Gulf countries commitment to the Damascus Declaration, relations with Cairo, the increasing US presence and influence in the Gulf, growing internal problems in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Kuwait and relations with Iraq and Iran.

Gulf states acknowledge Jordanian skills and efficiency in different fields.

THE STAR has learned that the cooperation in security matters between Jordan and the Gulf states is now on top of the agenda. The resumption of military training of Gulf officers in Jordan is not excluded. Training programs were cut by most Gulf countries in 1991, after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

The countries which participated in the Amman Economic Summit last month and insisted on regional development have also underlined the need for regional cooperation and ending Jordan's isolation because of its support for Iraq during the Gulf war.

It is believed that King Husayn's experience will contribute to solving many of the Gulf problems because of his close relationship with the ruling families. This became clear when King Husayn managed a rapprochment between the former Emir of Qatar and his son the present emir.

Fadlallah on Developments in Gulf, Saudi Arabia

NC1311184295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1747 GMT 13 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, "a Lebanese Islamic leader", in Lebanon by Jihad al-'Idan in Tehran; on 13 November—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] Your Eminence; it seems that political conditions in Saudi Arabia are not normal. Several explosions occurred recently, including the one that occurred today in the building housing the American military mission in Riyadh. What is your assessment of these developments?

[Fadlallah] I believe as far as the Gulf region, particularly Saudi Arabia, is concerned, there is more than one factor involved if we take into consideration what the American political plan for the region can produce if a settlement is achieved. I believe that many changes might cause an upheaval in the Gulf and the entire [Mideast] region because of the many political developments designed to rearrange the entire region according to American interests. America is doing this regardless of whether this will happen or not.

Hence, it is possible to encounter political, security, and social upheavals with which the region is not familiar. What happened now might indicate the size of the disturbing conditions the future can bring.

I believe that there is an attempt to cause something similar to a political tremor in the region through the world arrogance, whose changes of loyalties according to changes in economic and strategic interests are familiar to us. Therefore, we cannot determine the lines which these developments can take right now. But we feel that a new era or phase of uncertainty has actually started. We have to monitor it carefully, because it will reflect negatively on more than one location in the region.

Nasrallah Visits Damascus; Fadlallah Warns of War

NC1511204095 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has visited Damascus where he met Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. The two discussed developments in Lebanon and the region.

On a related issue, 'Allamah al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that Israel will continue to stage hostile actions in the south. He warned that Israeli officials will resort to a large scale war in the region if the internal struggle intensifies and matters reach the point of no return and civil war within Jewish society.

Cabinet Condemns Bombing in Riyadh

NC1511210595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At its meeting today, the cabinet agreed to extend the term of Army Commander Emile Lahhud. The cabinet held a meeting at the B'abda Palace under President Ilays al-Hirawi and attended by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Ha[illegible]. After the meeting, Information Minister Farid Makari read the following official resolutions:

[Begin Makari recording] The cabinet held its weekly meeting today at the invitation of the prime minister. His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi chaired the meeting. At the outset, President al-Hirawi, on behalf of the cabinet, congratulated His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and the fraternal Syrian people on the silver jubilee of the Corrective Movement and wished President al-Asad continued good health and the fraternal Syrian people prosperity.

President al-Hirawi, on behalf of the cabinet, condemned the bombing of the Saudi National Guard center on the day before yesterday. It stressed solidarity with fraternal Saudi Arabia in all its efforts to safeguard its security and stability. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Afghanistan

Taleban Leader Killed in Helicopter Explosion

LD1511164795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taleban leader has been killed in an explosion on board a helicopter. Reliable sources told a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent that Mullah Mohammad Omar, the Taleban leader, was flying to Ghazni along with three companions on board a helicopter laden with explosives when the helicopter exploded over Vardak Province. Mullah Mohammad Omar, who was 34 years old, was the leader of the Benazir Bhutto-linked Taleban. He was always flying by helicopters and military aircraft to Taleban-controlled provinces in the company of Pakistani military advisers.

Another report says that an explosion at a Taleban ammunition depot in Vardak Province led to the death of [word indistinct] foreigners. [Words indistinct] and some depot guards were also killed. The explosion at the depot was due to the differences that exist between the Taleban and their leaders.

Government Forces Claim Success Near Kabul

LD1511211395 Tehran IRNA in English 1923 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Nov. 15, IRNA — Government forces managed to foil offensives by Taleban group in Khord District, 20 kms south of the capital city, Afghan Defense Ministry announced in a statement issued here Tuesday. The statement said the forces managed to foil the offensives by Taleban group within two hours, inflicting damage and casualties on the group.

Based on the statement Taleban had over the past couple of days killed its local commander Mullah 'Abdol-Salam Roketi in the aftermath of a clash in Shah Jouy District of Ghazni Province, when Taleban tried to disarm Roketi and his forces in order to collect a big cache in the district. As a part of their strategy, Taleban have been trying to collect all of the arms in areas under their control.

Roketi, who quit the party to join Taleban group recently, was among former commanders of Islamic Ettehad [Union] Party of Afghanistan, led by 'Abdol-Rasul Sayyaf.

Clashes are underway between Afghan government forces and northern National Islamic Movement in Samangan Province and south of Balkh Province to the effect that government forces have claimed attaining new victories. Afghan Defense Ministry on Tuesday said that forces loyal to Afghan government had in their fresh offensive captured 11 bases of the movement, led by General 'Abdol-Rashid Dostam, in Kutel Sefid [as received] district in Samangan Province. The forces destroyed two tanks, belonging to the movement, and took considerable amount of arms as well as heavy and light ammunition as booty. A number of forces loyal to the two sides also were killed or injured, but no exact figure is available on the deathtolls.

In another report, the ministry announced that three commanders of the movement along with 50 forces under their command and considerable amount of arms and ammunition had joined government forces in Samangan Province.

However, no independent news source has yet confirmed Afghan state-run sources' claims due to their lack of access to the battle fields.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Discusses Current Situation With Dostam

LD1511121395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister in charge of Asia-Pacific affairs, who is presently in Afghanistan, this morning met General 'Abdorrashid Dostam, leader of Jonbesh-e Meli-ye Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic National Movement of Afghanistan], to discuss the latest political and military developments in that country.

According a Central News Unit report, 'Abdorrashid Dostam praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to resolve the Afghan crisis. He said: The return of peace and stability to Afghanistan is one of the objectives of Jonbesh-e Meli-ye Eslami-ye Afghanistan.

Borujerdi responded, saying: The main focus of efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran is on consultations and exchanging views with the leaders of Afghan groups, with the aim of facilitating diplomatic negotiations.

Yesterday, our country's official met Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani in Kabul.

Holds Talks With Ahmad Shah Mas'ud

LD1511181295 Tehran IRNA in English 2218 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Nov. 14, IRNA — The visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi here on Tuesday met with the defence minister and commander-in-chief of the Afghanistan's military forces Ahmad Shah

Mas'ud. In the meeting, the two sides reviewed Tehran-Kabul relations as well as the latest political and military developments in strife-torn Afghanistan and the ways for achieving peace and understanding among the different Afghan factions.

Borujerdi underlined that since the beginning of the conflict among the different Afghan factions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has expressed its concern over the tragic situation and reiterated that negotiations is the best way to resolve the problems. "Iran is ready to render any kind of help in order to bring an end to the fighting and fratricide in Afghanistan," he added. He said the Afghan government and nation have lost many opportunities for starting the reconstruction process of their country and if today they neglect a historic and decisive opportunity tomorrow will be too late.

Ahmad Shah Mas'ud praising the continuation of Iranian efforts for resolving the Afghan crisis, announced that his government's policy is not the pursuing of war and the conflict between the country's different factions. He also welcomed any political solution to the current crisis in his country. The Afghan minister stressed that interferences by foreign countries has complicated the political situation of the country. He also expressed hope that foreign meddlings will soon come to an end.

Borujerdi, who arrived earlier today in Kabul, as part of Iran's efforts to settle the Afghan crisis, had a meeting with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani. Later, following his meeting with the Afghan defence minister, the Iranian official told reporters that the problems of Afghan should be settled in Afghanistan by the Afghan people. Any solution imposed on the afghan people from outside is impractical and bound to fail, he reiterated.

Borujerdi made it clear that Iran regards the government of President Rabbani as "legal government of Afghanistan, since it is a member of the United Nations and the organization of the Islamic Conference, and has its representatives in all international bodies." He said Iran will continue to provide relief supplies to the Afghan people, and noted the inauguration by him in Kabul of the medical centre of the Imam Khomeyni relief committee and the distribution of several tons of wheat, rice, and other foodstuffs.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD1511212595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ala'eddin Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who came to Kabul on a friendly visit, left Kabul today after meeting government officials of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. [Passage indistinct]

Iran

Statements, Comment on U.S. Embassy Occupation

Tehran Militant Clergy Association

NC1511152595 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 31 Oct 95 p 14

["Text" of a statement issued by the Tehran Militant Clergy Association on 4 November marking the "national day of the struggle against world arrogance"; in Tehran on 31 October]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the Almighty. The 13th of Aban [4 November] reminds us of priceless acts by Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified. Therefore, on the occasion of this great and historic day, we cherish the memory of the great Imam of the world of Islam and the founder of the Islamic Republic, and we greet his soul, which is bestowed with God's grace. He was the standard-bearer of contemporary man's liberation from the diktat of the great Satan, America. [passage omitted]

1. Nature of the Islamic Republic System

The Islamic revolution is, by nature, an anti-arrogant revolution. This is an undeniable fact.

When we say that God is great, we are negating the greatness of all other powers, including the criminal America. When we say that there is no God but Allah, we are challenging all the other false gods to war.

Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, who revived the loudest cry of monotheism in our era, always emphasized that we should not serve the devil. And the fight against America and bullying powers is the manifestation and impact of his religious teachings on the social and political acts and behavior of us, the Muslims. [passage omitted]

2. The System's Foreign Policy

The foreign policy of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic has been formed on the basis of honor, esteem, wisdom, and expedience. This is a policy that has, through the present, ensured the awe-inspiring power of the Islamic Republic on the world. Our anti-infidel and anti-oppression revolution cannot reach a compromise with any hegemonic power. Therefore, the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic, on the basis of the principle of friendship and renunciation, has fulfilled all the major slogans of the revolution. And today we have good relations with all countries of the world, except the regime occupying Jerusalem and its main, major supporter—the criminal America!

From the very moment our system was formed, we emphasized that we would have reciprocal and useful relations with all the countries that do not have a hegemonic stand.

Naturally, we cannot establish healthy diplomatic relations with countries that claim world leadership and want to play the role of a global policeman. Therefore, America will have to be deprived of diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The world today knows that we have no feelings of hostility toward any government and nation. Our enmity is only with the infidels and the leaders of despotism and arrogance.

3. Reasons, Roots of America's Hostility With Islamic Iran

Probably the teenagers and youths who were not present during the years of blood and fire and our nation's pitiless war against the criminal America ask themselves: What are the reasons and roots of America's enmity with Iran? To answer, we must recall one point— that because America considered Iran to be its major base in the region and was fulfilling its objectives in the region through the rotten regime of the shah, it could not tolerate the Islamic Revolution and the fall of the monarchy in Iran in any way, especially when this revolution led to the establishment of a divine system that was the inspiration of all the world's Muslims!

Throwing off the yoke of the multinational American companies' plunderings and ending Washington's influence on the Islamic people are among the unpardonable crimes that the brave Iranian nation has been charged of and which will never be forgotten by the American leaders!

America considers the revival of religious thought, the fight against corruption and injustice, and the reemergence of Islam as a divine program that can very skillfully manage a country to be adversities of our era. America considers the revival of Islam to be the reason for the disintegration of rules that are based on atheism, and it has thus impudently risen against God, the messenger of God—peace be upon him and his scion—and Islam.

For 200 years, the West has been trying to impose its colonialist theory of separating religion from politics on the Islamic societies. But with the emergence of the Islamic revolution, all the efforts by Western political philosophers have proven futile. Islam seriously opposes secularism, and the Islamic revolution is a successful example of divine rule that the world is witnessing today.

The Islamic revolution's support for Muslim nations and Islamic movements has turned the Islamic Republic into a powerful hearth and source from which all Islamic movements begin. This is why each day we witness the expansion of Islam and of Islamic teachings worldwide. This is a fact that speaks of the end of arrogant bullies in the world. Therefore, definitely all the bullies of the world are confronting us; and they are led by America in this confrontation.

4. Independence

One of the most important gains of our system in our brave struggle against America and the big powers has been Islamic Iran's independence in all aspects.

Iran's independence, which is discussed so much by all governments and nations, is something that no one can deny. Our nation now has acquired a gem at the price of the pure blood, shed for the sake of the Islamic system—a gem that all nations under domination are striving to gain as well. This gem is our independence.

The political, economic, social, cultural, and military decisions of this nation are not made in Washington, Paris, or London. They are made in Tehran by the people and by their deputies and great leaders.

Those who are worried about economic problems are actually denying the power and strength of the Iranian nation and manpower, the below-ground resources, and the potentials of our Islamic homeland, because with such immense assets, all economic problems can be solved. Now that the great tree of Iran's independence has borne the swee fruits of economic gains, these people do not have anything to say, and their negative attitude and opposition only prove their foreign dependence and do not benefit anyone.

5. Clericism, Anti-Arrogance

In the past 200 years, during which Islamic movements and popular uprisings against foreign colonialism and domestic despotism have been going on, the militant clergymen have always been on the front line of the nation's struggles. During the constitutional movement, the national oil movement, and—finally—the recent Islamic movement led by Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, the genuine clergymen have spectacularly displayed their selflessness and their devotion for the sake of Islam.

The world can still hear the brave cries of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, ringing in their ears that "America cannot do a damn thing!"

The anti-arrogance of the clergy-led revolution is an inseparable part of the constant movement of the system.

Our system now is being justly led by an intelligent, brave, and competent faqih [religious scholar]. And the leadership of this prideful struggle is the velayat-e faqih [supreme leader]. The fight with the enemy involves complicated secrets known by those who have gained the necessary experience in the great jihad.

If, during the auspicious life of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, we were able to reach the peaks of grandeur, this was because a pious person like him was the standard-bearer of the fight against the great Satan, America.

If we see today the struggle of the Iranian nation being at the peak of its strength and the world's attention being focused on it, it is because the standard-bearer of these struggles, a person like Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, led these struggles at home and abroad in the best way possible.

We should thank God almighty for this great blessing and devote all our time to keeping this process going. [passage omitted]

6. Occupation of the Den of Spies

The 13th of Aban [4 November] is the anniversary of the day the den of spies was occupied and the face of a superpower was slapped by an oppressed nation. This legendary day was possible because of the brave students whose most important characteristic was that they followed the imam's line. Since then, the student movement has seen many problems. And today, the Hezbollahi youth in the universities and their alert and revolutionary professors are leading an instructive and informative movement.

This movement is purging textbooks of incorrect foreign cultural teachings and is threatening the admonitions by suspicious elements.

This is an auspicious movement. The Tehran Militant Clergy believes that the students who are devoted to divine and revolutionary values should always think about what they can do to keep the system and the revolution free from the poisonous and atheistic thoughts of the West.

Today some people are donning the mask of intellectualism and of relativism and are doubting the principles and indisputable issues of Islam and the revolution. They should know that they are involved in a game that has no future and that the same games have been tried and tested in the past by atheists and hypocrites.

7. The Nation's Struggle Against America

Each day our divine system is becoming more powerful in the world. Today there is no sign of a reduction in America's hostility against Islam and the Muslims. The recent attempt by the American Congress to transfer the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem not only further disgraced the so-called Middle East peace process, but was also a clear sign of the intensification of America's hostility toward the Muslim Palestinian nation's uprising.

The Americans today are exhausted after their decision on the so-called economic siege of Iran and are at their lowest level of world credibility. The world has reached such a stage of political maturity that it is capable of not tying its interests to the interests of the American capitalists.

The Tehran Militant Clergy, while emphasizing that America's hostility toward the Muslims of the world and toward the brave Iranian nation still continues, supports our brave people's struggle against this criminal of the century. It calls on everyone to be vigilant toward the plots of the enemies.

8. The 13 Aban March

The 13th of Aban is the day the rage of the Iranian nation was manifested in the attempt by the Muslim students following the Imam's line. The revenge for the massacre of students in 1357 [1978], as well as for the exiling of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, in 1964 on charges of having spoken for justice was taken by the occupation of America's den of corruption. Each year, on this day, demonstrations are held throughout our Islamic homeland in protest of America's crimes.

The Tehran Militant Clergy Association calls on all people, especially the dear students, to participate in the ceremonies to be held on 13 Aban in front of the American den of spies and to underline the divine aspirations of the Imam and the anti-arrogance of the revolution with their crushing slogans.

[Signed] The Tehran Militant Clergy Association

[Dated] 31 October 1995

Islamic Coalition Association

NC1511113195 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Nov 95 p 4

["Text" of a statement issued by the Islamic Coalition Association on the anniversary of the occupation of the U.S. Embassy; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] We cherish the memories of the epic-making 13 Aban [4 November] and remember our late imam, may his soul be sanctified. The imam's loud and everlasting cry against American capitulation, which led to his exile to Turkey [in 1963], is still being heard in today's anti-arrogant struggles. It will keep being heard. The occupation of the den of spies, carried out under the backstage leadership of the martyred Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti, and named the second revolution by the late imam, was the death knell of American domination in Iran and disappointed the liberals and the helpless pro-Westerners. The martyrdom of students in 1357 [1978] proved that the young generation that had its roots in the 15 Khordad [5 June 1963] incidents had reached a stage of revolutionary maturity such that they shed their pure blood for the revolution to take root. This is why 13 Aban has been named the national day of the struggle against world arrogance.

"Arrogance" has a connotation that goes far beyond America and colonialist domination. And the struggle against arrogance, in its global, domestic, and physical aspects, concerns all time, all places, and all societies. The duty of every God-loving Islamic ummah is to identify arrogance and the arrogant and to decisively struggle against them in every aspect and in every field.

In the contemporary world, however, world arrogance is America, which justly deserves the characterization, "the great satan." It is the real enemy of the independence and freedom of nations and wants all nations and countries to be under its diktat and to serve its wretched objectives.

America is the enemy of national and Islamic sovereignty, because national sovereignty and, higher than that, Islamic sovereignty are antihegemonist. American is the enemy of the Koran and Islam, because the Koran and Islam oppose despots and despotism.

America is hegemonistic, colonialist, plundering, despotic and the propagator of corruption and decadence. It is the mentor of bullies, dictators, aggressors, and state terrorists. It is terrified of the expansion of pure Mohammedan Islam and the growing alertness and awakening of nations.

Islam and the progressive principle of the supreme leader, as well as genuine Islamic clerics, oppose America and any type of foreign arrogance and its domestic followers. They will continue to resist arrogance.

The Islamic ummah, in following the line of the imam and obeying the leader of the world of Islam, struggles heroically against the arrogant and the world-devouring Americans and for the continuation of this glorious jihad. This tireless struggle will continue until the world-devouring America disintegrates and arrogance is defeated so that, God willing, the rule of Islam's global justice will be established in the world and will ensure the happiness of the world and its nations.

This struggle started in 1962 against the anti-Islamic plot of the shah's American regime. It was led by Imam Khomeyni. America and its hirelings spared no crime, oppression, treason, torturing of prisoners, murders, or massacres. Despite all these pitiless actions and treacherous acts, thank God, the Islamic movement of clericalism and of the supreme religious leader emerged victories and America was ousted from Islamic Iran. Then in 1980 the compromising pro-American liberals were defeated with the occupation of the den of spies. In the eight years of imposed war the Iranian nation displayed the utmost selflessness and sacrifice in its resistance, emerging victorious and proud from this divine test. And now the valuable constructive activity of the honorable government of Ayatollah Hashemi-Rafsanjani [title as published], under the prophet-like leadership of His Eminence the Grand Ayatollah Khamene'i [title as published], coupled with the help and efforts of the God-loving managers, are working to strengthen the political, cultural, military, and economic bases daily and are moving in the line of the great jihad and the defense of Islamic values and principles. Today, thank God, this God-loving struggle has grown in other countries, thanks to the freedom-loving and Muslim nations.

The victories scored by the Muslim peoples of Palestine, Bosnia, and Algeria, and the struggle for freedom and independence by other nations, all herald a world free of diktat.

Naturally, problems, imprisonments, exiles, and deprivations increase daily and the ugly and wretched face of arrogance is seen more clearly. Although arrogance has always tried to don the mask of democracy and act as the advocate of human rights, nations have realized what the leader of the Muslims meant when he said: "Today America is to be partly blamed for any evil created on the basis of diktat."

The martyrdom of the great and pious Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the martyrdom of Algerians and Bosnians, and the assassination attempt against the Islamic Republic's charge d'affaires in Argentina are only some of the crimes by hegemonistic America.

This is why nations, primarily Islamic Iran, will continue the struggle against arrogance under the leadership of their just supreme leader and the leader of the world of Islam and condemn the diktat and the pitiless assassinations by the hegemonistic America and its wretched servant, Israel.

The Islamic Coalition Association marks the memory of the late imam and pays its respects to the great people martyred in the struggle against American capitulation—the martyrs Amani, Bokhara'i, Niknezhad, Haramda, 'Araqi, and Andarzgu. It also pays homage to the resistance by their friends during 13 years of imprisonments and torture. It prays for the souls of all the martyrs of the great country of Iran and especially of the students who were martyred. We call on all members who support these ideas to participate in the 13 Aban marches on the American den of spies and to raise their everlasting voice to cry out "Death to America" with uniformity and accord.

[Signed] The Islamic Coalition Association

Columnist on Embassy Occupation

NC1511165295 Tehran SALAM in Persian 7 Nov 95 p 2

[From the "Hello SALAM" column: "SALAM Answer to a Reader's Telephone Call"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified caller] Although the occupation of the U.S. den of espionage was in essence a correct action, from the practical point of view, it was an error. It is common international practice that if diplomats indulge in espionage they are expelled from the country. We also could have expelled them officially and closed down the embassy. The result of destroying and vandalizing an embassy is that even now after 16 years, if we swear that we are not terrorists, no one believes us and all the suffering we have experienced because of this is your fault.

[SALAM] It is correct that the expulsion of the Americans and diplomatic spies is the accepted solution but it does not have any connection with the above incident. This is because the act of occupying the den of spies was not a diplomatic action by the government. It was a popular move against U.S. intervention. On the other hand, if we are being labeled terrorists for this unconventional act, why are the Americans not termed terrorists for their repeated interference in every nook and corner of the world?

Why do the Americans proclaim Israel—which carries out overt acts of terrorism and brazenly accepts responsibility for them and whose former prime minister (Menachim Begin) was a seasoned terrorist—as a democratic and anti-terrorist country?

In addition, prior to the occupation of the U.S. den of spies, didn't the United States inflict losses on us and now is the subsequent damage being attributed to this act of ours? This would be a serious error on the part of those who make such allegations.

Before the occupation of the U.S. espionage den, the American courts swiftly attended to the complaints lodged by American, and even Iranian, individuals and companies. They swiftly issued verdicts and orders against Iran and blocked all its assets on the basis of U.S. laws and judicial system. However, the Algiers accord at least removed some of these complaints from the review process and Iran's complaints against the United States were reviewed at the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

All this was to our benefit. The Algiers accord is so important that Carter used his power to approve it despite the fact that the accord was in contravention of the U.S. Constitution. This was to Iran's benefit.

Velayati Urges End to Intervention in Afghanistan

LD1611114095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our country's foreign minister has called for a halt to the intervention of foreign powers in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Mr. Velayati, speaking in Tehran today, stressed: Determining the fate of Afghanistan is the indisputable right of the people of that country. He said that instead of interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, foreign countries should pay attention to the real needs of the Afghan people, in particular their need for assistance in the reconstruction of their country.

He also called on the warring factions in Afghanistan to try to end their internal strife through negotiations.

Russian Ambassador Discusses Nuclear Cooperation

NC1411200795 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 2 Nov 95 p 10

[Report on interview with Sergey Tretyakov, Russian ambassador to Iran, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian ambassador spoke about completing the Bushehr nuclear power plant, saying: The U.S. President and secretary of state in New York requested that their Russian counterparts suspend Moscow's cooperation to complete the power plant but they were told this plan would go ahead.

In answer to the ABRAR correspondent's question on some Russian officials' visit to Tehran, the results of Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov's visit, and their meetings with Iranian officials, the Russian Federation's ambassador said:

Your question is very detailed and cannot be answered in a succinct manner. As you are aware some Russian delegations have visited Iran in the past few days, including a delegation from the State Duma headed by

Konstantin Zatolin, who accompanied Deputy Foreign Minister Va'ezi. They held many interesting meetings.

During these meetings numerous issues of mutual interest, including bilateral, regional, and international ones, were discussed and assessed. The next delegation was led by Aleksandr Yakovlev, the head of Russian radio and television, who is a veteran politician of the Soviet Union.

[Correspondent] He is known as the godfather of perestroyka.

[Tretyakov] Yes. He has remained on the Russian political scene since the disintegration of the former Soviet Union. He held talks with Larijani [head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran] and Va'ezi. These meetings had effective and interesting results for our cultural relations in the fields of radio, television, and the theater. Of course, these were not limited to mere agreements. Yakovlev presented some very interesting proposals to the Iranian side which are being reviewed.

[Correspondent] In what context were these suggestions presented?

[Tretyakov] Different issues were touched upon and could be construed as preparatory for Bolshakov's visit to Iran, which took place in an extremely cordial and friendly atmosphere. I do not consider it necessary to refer to everyone Bolshakov met but suffice it to say that he met with Mohajerani, Habibi, Velayati, Amrollahi, and Aqazadeh.

On the level of experts he conferred with officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Petroleum and the environmental protection organization. It is definitely clear that the main focus of his visit was talks on the Caspian Sea and the beginning of an unpleasant trend for both countries regarding this very unique sea.

In view of the actions by some littoral states of the Caspian Sea we considered it necessary to consult with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Of course, our two countries' stances on this subject are quite close and it can be said that they are almost 99 percent alike. We formulated a draft on the Caspian Sea which was signed at the Iranian Foreign Ministry by Velayati and Bolshakov. We also presented some other documents and drafts pertaining to the committee on the legal system regarding shipping and fishing.

These documents could constitute an appropriate foundation for cooperation among the littoral countries of the Caspian Sea.

[Correspondent] The issue you mentioned was that Bolshakov also met with Dr. Amrollahi, the head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization [IAEO]. Will work on the completion of the Bushehr nuclear power plant begin this month as scheduled?

[Tretyakov] In his meeting with the Iranian officials, Bolshakov stressed that Russia will adhere to its commitments as preserved in the agreements and accords and it will complete the Bushehr power plant. In addition, I should state that during the talks between U.S. President Bill Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and President Boris Yeltsin in New York, the issue of Russian-Iranian cooperation on the nuclear power plant was raised. The Russian president and foreign minister stressed that Russia reserves the right to decide whom to cooperate with and does not allow anyone to interfere in such matters.

In this regard, Russian experts will soon visit Iran to finish the Bushehr nuclear power plant, but the date has not yet been finalized. Whenever the IAEO issues the letters of credit (LC) the experts will begin work.

[Correspondent] At the same time the U.S. President and secretary of state were meeting in New York with their Russian counterparts, the Russian Institute of Defense Studies called for a military alliance between Moscow and Tehran. On the other hand, Russian Defense Minister General Grachev declared that Iran is our great ally in the Persian Gulf. In view of the aforementioned remarks, is it possible that relations between Russia and Iran may include a series of defense accords or the two countries may sign such accords? Both also hold similar views on the Persian Gulf and on Central Asia and the Caucasus.

[Tretyakov] You have given almost half the answer in your question. Of course, such a perception does exist.

[Correspondent] It seems to be reinforced more each day. If we look at the past we will see that two years ago Iran was considered a rival or enemy in Central Asia and the Caucasus that was to be kept at a distance. This Russian vantage point has, howver, been gradually forgotten.

[Tretyakov] No, you are slightly mistaken. Russia has never considered Iran an enemy.

[Correspondent] On the other hand, no friendly remarks were heard about Iran.

[Tretyakov] That is another issue. Let us move on to other issues. During Bolshakov's meeting with Mohajerani and Velayati it was emphasized that the cooperation we are witnessing today indicates the motivation on both sides to forge bilateral strategic relations. Keeping the longterm interests in the region in view, Iran and

Russia are ready to make these relations more strategic and dynamic. Therefore, there is a possibility that agreements may be signed on this.

During the talks, both sides asserted that much time has been lost and they have reached the conclusion that they should make greater efforts to solve the Caspian Sea problem as soon as possible so that we do not repeat past mistakes.

[Correspondent] Is the policy Russia has adopted toward Iran indicative of a strategic about-face in Moscow's perspective on the Middle East?

[Tretyakov] I can state that in the past few years a tilt toward the West was observed in Russia's foreign policy. Now, however, we are leaning totally toward broadening relations with the countries of the world including the Middle East. Our policies on various regions, including the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, Central Asia, and the Far East have come closer.

[Correspondent] A few days ago, Deputy Foreign Minister Borujerdi said in an interview with us that consultations were under way among Iran, Russia, and Uzbekistan regarding the Afghanistan issue. To what extent have these consultations progressed?

[Tretyakov] Today we received news from Pakistan that our ambassador in Islamabad met with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who will soon visit Iran. During his talks with her, the ambassador conveyed Russia's concern about recent events in Afghanistan. We are also in constant contact with our Iranian friends.

Recently, the director general of the Russian Foreign Ministry visited Tehran and met Musavi, the director general of the Iranian Foreign Ministry for Afghanistan and other West Asian countries. These talks took place after special UN envoy Mahmud Mestiri's trip to Afghanistan. The two sides discussed some countries' program and efforts to interfere in Afghanistan's affairs and it was agreed that they should follow a joint policy on this. This issue was also raised during Bolshakov's visit and his meetings with Iranian officials.

[Correspondent] The problem for Afghanistan is that many foreign countries are interfering in its affairs. The foreign minister of a country contiguous to Afghanistan wants the country's government removed and the militarists of that country are assisting the Taleban. If such interference continues, what should be done to prevent the collapse of its government?

[Tretyakov] In view of the resources at our disposal we can make them realize the consequences of interfering in Afghanistan.

[Correspondent] Don't you believe that the issue of the Russian hostages in the Taleban's custody is a political one? It appears that the Taleban are seeking to keep Russia out of the Afghanistan crisis.

[Tretyakov] Certainly. We view this action as political blackmail.

[Correspondent] In your previous interview with me, you said that Russia would probably seek to counteract the expansion of NATO by making a defense treaty with CIS members countries. Have any steps been taken or has this been confined to mere lipservice, especially since Pavel Grachev and many other Russian politicians mentioned such a policy at the same time as your remarks?

[Tretyakov] Yes. The president, defense minister, foreign minister, and some Duma members had explained Russia's view on the issue. This is our belief [as published]. At the time of the Warsaw Pact's dissolution, Russia and the Western countries stated that East-West relations had undergone a metamorphosis. Then why does NATO continue to strengthen itself? For what reason? This is the biggest question for us.

In the latest meeting between the heads of the United States and Russia, Yeltsin raised this issue very seriously. He said that in Russia's opinion a European security and cooperation organization should be established instead of NATO so that all the European countries can come under its umbrella. If the Western countries continue their program in this manner we will certainly react. we do not consider it necessary, however, to take any definite steps that would generate more tension and crises. We are striving to resolve this issue amicably.

[Correspondent] The West's view on Russia is that the United States is apprehensive that Russia's traditional presence or influence may re-emerge in Eastern Europe and the countries of this region may broaden their relations with Russia due to their dependence, traditional ties, or economic or ethnic relations. This is not to the West's benefit; for example, in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The issue that arises is that for certain humanitarian issues [as published] the United States did not intervene in the massacres that took place there during the past few years. However, the United States was concerned that Russia might gain a foothold in the Adriatic and then the Mediterranean, which would disrupt the strategic equilibrium of Europe. Do you agree with this?

[Tretyakov] You have made wonderful remarks about the U.S. intervention and its extensive efforts to gain influence in Bosnia-Herzegovina, although there were other factors involved as well.

As a large country, regardless of its ideological system whether communist or non-communist, Russia has had longstanding national interests in Eastern Europe and will continue to do so. I do not believe that we would permit anyone to deny this. It is for this reason that Russia is paying greater attention to Eastern Europe than it did in the past.

[Correspondent] Even if the West is opposed to it?

[Tretyakov] Anyone who has certain interests also has opponents. However, everything cannot be a monopoly by one country or a group of countries.

[Correspondent] If another Berlin wall were to be erected in Europe...

[Tretyakov] We do not want another Berlin wall.

[Correspondent] Yes, you do not want it, but you have boosted your presence in Eastern Europe for the sake of your national interests and you have taken defensive measure in order to combat the expansion of NATO. If this does not culminate in a sort of tussle between the West and Russia, not militarily but politically, and two new poles come into existence in Europe, will Russia be ready to defend its national interests?

[Tretyakov] Last year President Yeltsin addressed the session of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe in Budapest and said: We have put the Cold War behind us but it appears we are moving toward a cold peace, which Moscow opposes. If this trend by some Western countries continues, we will resist it.

[Correspondent] My last question is: Can the agreement between Greece and Russia that was signed 31 October during Grachev's visit to Athens be considered part of Moscow's latest policy with regard to Eastern Europe?

[Tretyakov] Definitely.

[Correspondent] I thank you for the interview.

Germany Denies Press Reports on Kinkel's Remarks

LD1111102595 Tehran IRNA in English
0746 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bonn, Nov. 11, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to Germany Seyyed Hoseyn Musavian here Friday said that the German Foreign Ministry had refuted reports by certain segments of the German press regarding alleged remarks made by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel in a press conference that Tehran supported terrorism.

He said the ministry instead had confirmed reports carried in other German dailies, which had quoted Kinkel as saying that Iran did not support international terrorism.

The highly circulated dailies, writing about the press conference held on Thursday, quoted Kinkel as accusing Iran of supporting terrorism.

The German daily 'GENERAL-ANZEIGER' however wrote that in Kinkel's view, Tehran did not support international terrorism.

Spokesman Praises German Position on Conference

LD1211180595 Tehran IRNA in English
1734 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA — A spokesman of Iranian Foreign Ministry praised the Germany as forerunner of promoting dialog and peace among different schools of thought in the world.

The spokesman, Mahmud Mohammadi, in an interview with IRNA referred to Iranian position about the assassination of the former prime minister of the Zionist regime, Yitzhaq Rabin, which has reportedly caused harsh arguments in the German parliament on whether Iranian Foreign Minister could participate in a conference on "Islam and Europe".

He pointed out that in spite of the fact the opposing forces (268 Social Democrats) had taken the opportunity to fully exploit the prevalent sensitive atmosphere in the Bundestag, 230 members of parliament (MPs), that makes up approximately half of the members of the lower house of parliament voted for the presence of the Iranian minister.

He added that one should consider the reality that at present a general trend in the countries around the world is proceeding towards solidification of independence and that the recent incident in the German parliament was move which was directly in clash with this trend.

However, Mohammadi finally predicted that those nations would eventually triumph despite the current temporary obstacles on their way.

Italian Envoy on Differences in EU, U.S. Policies

LD1211223495 Tehran IRNA in English
2211 GMT 12 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov 12 (IRNA) — "Our stand is contrary to the U.S. policy concerning isolating Iran and we believe that mutual talks will pave the way for resolving bilateral problems," said the Italian Ambassador to Tehran, Ludovico Ortona, here today in a meeting with the Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

The Italian ambassador also added that the European Union and the United States have differences in the political outlook and approach in relation to holding negotiations with Iran.

Ortona went on to say that the new international order was taking shape and that the European countries were preparing to review their relations with the United States.

He stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been unjustifiably charged with supporting terrorism and trying to attain nuclear capability.

The ambassador pointed out that as the head of the EU, his country would try to remove the obstacles existing between the European countries and Iran through fruitful negotiations in order to bring about cooperation.

In the meeting, Besharati indicated that the Islamic Republic of Iran as a member of the world community, advocated international cooperation, observation of other countries' sovereignity and noninterference policy in the internal affairs of other countries which were some of the norms pursued by the country's policy makers.

Inviting the European countries to be acquainted with realities in Iran, Besharati stressed that the Iranian nation is determined to preserve its independence, adding that European countries could act independently and far from the U.S. fabrications if they tried to better perceive Iranian problems.

"The era for big power domination has come to an end and the time is ripe that we prepare ourselves for the expansion of mutual relations between Europe and Iran by taking into consideration the norms of mutual respect, honor and noninterference in each other's domestic affairs," stated Besharati.

He also went on to say that Iran welcomes any mutual talk with the Europe and deems it as important for the European nations to regulate their relations without the influence of noisy propaganda by the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"The false U.S. allegations concerning the Iranian attempts to acquire nuclear weapons and providing support for terrorist acts are but baseless accusations aimed at destroying the peaceloving image of the Islamic nation," underlined Besharati.

He concluded by saying, "the Iranian nation is so strong that it can defend its territorial integrity without the acquisition of a nuclear capability."

Besharati finally stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is itself the main victim of the terrorism in the world.

The interior minister has invited his Italian counterpart to pay an official visit to Iran. In addition, he has expressed hope that the relations between the two countries will be further upgraded.

Official Assures France of Expanded Trade Ties

LD1411223695 Tehran IRNA in English 2200 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA — Iran's First Deputy Commerce Minister Huseyn Nuqreh-Kar in a meeting here today with French Ambassador Jean Pierre Masset, said Paris can count on further trade cooperation with Tehran.

Referring to Iran's relations with the Central Asian and Caucasus republics Nuqreh-Kar proposes trilateral trade cooperation involving Iran, France and the newly independent republics of Central Asia and the Caucasus.

He also referred to rescheduling of Iranian debts to France and called on French officials to step cooperation with Iran particularly in the second five-year development plan which started this march.

In addition to govenment sectors the private sectors also can play an effective role in the two countries' relations, said the Iranian official adding that by setting up joint economic commission Tehran and Paris would be able to expand their relations.

The Iranian official called for arranging an Iranian week in the French capital, and invited his French counterpart to pay a visit to Iran.

The French ambassador replied that the grounds have been paved for the two countries to expand their cooperation, and at present some big projects are on hand.

Saying that the ways for upgrading the two countries' cooperation in the areas of small and medium scale industries are under study, Masset added that on his return home he will discuss prospects of Tehran-Paris economic cooperation with France's public and private sectors officials.

The French ambassador earlier today visited the giant Mobarakeh steel complex on Monday.

European Companies To Invest in Shipping Industry

LD1411115095 Tehran IRNA in English 0804 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov., 14, IRNA — Foreign companies will invest in Iran's shipping industry, announced head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Shipping Lines (IRISL), Mahmud Tarjoman.

In an interview with the English-language daily, IRAN NEWS, he said, "We are at the final stage of negotiations with British and Norwegian companies and have had meetings with German and Dutch companies for repair of spare parts."

The IRISL also intends to replace 44 of its 110 vessels with new ones, some of which will be purchased and others built locally, added Tarjoman, who is also deputy minister of commerce.

A total of 800 million dollars has been allocated to the purchase, manufacture, and repair of vessels, he noted.

"This amount will be provided by IRISL, as well as financing through 12-year bank loans and credit granted by foreign manufacturers," the head of the IRISL concluded.

Construction Jihad Minister Interviewed on Projects

NC1011090695 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (International Weekly) in English 2 Nov 95 pp 1, 14

[Report from the Political Desk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—Minister of Construction Jihad, Engineer Gholam Reza Foruzesh, in an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES last week, elaborated on the activities of the ministry here and abroad.

The focal point of the dialogue was the ministry's involvement in construction work in Sudan, which was a subject of importance because, in his words, it "reflects not only the two countries' close and friendly ties, but also the increased capabilities of the country especially in the field of construction."

He stressed that his ministry's efforts have been concentrated in deprived areas of Iran, in accordance with government policy, and "wherever there is a need for a helping hand," in obvious reference to the project in Sudan.

"Following several requests made by the Sudanese government, back in 1988, to undertake construction work in particular projects in Sudan's deprived villages, the Construction Jihad Ministry decided to open a liaison office in Khartoum in order to better supervise our projects in that country," Foruzesh said.

"The work was going on fine during al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's tenure but then, due to domestic developments, it was banned for a few months," he added.

"When General 'Umar al-Bashir's National Liberation Front government took over in command, the two countries' ties were further strengthened and high-ranking officials of both countries visited each other's capitals and this was when Sudan asked Construction Jihad to resume its activities there," he continued.

Foruzesh said that the ministry formally resumed work in Sudan in 1991 at a much wider scale, with activities ranging from construction of houses and health services in village areas to primary education under the supervision of the Economic Cooperation Office of the ministry.

Of the ministry's completed projects, the construction jihad minister singled out the 69-km Peace Road project as the biggest so far accomplished in Sudan.

"He said the road has been inspected by the Majles speaker, along with a number of Sudanese authorities, adding that the road's foundation is fully complete while the surfacing is now being undertaken.

For this project, he said that "About 1,400,000 cu. meters of soil were removed for laying of the foundation, and another 24,150 cu. meters of asphalt was used for a five-millimeter thick coating of the 11-meter wide strategic road."

"The road has two-meter pedestrian lanes, five 20-meter long bridges and has been designed to accommodate vehicle speeds of up to 120 kilometers per hour," Foruzesh said.

Foruzesh, referring to other completed projects, also spoke of the completion of an Agricultural Consultants Complex, a joint venture of the Construction Jihad Ministry with the Sudan's Agriculture Ministry. The complex is located in the Wadi Ramli region which is a deprived area of Sudan.

"We have also introduced mechanized agricultural practices, including soil preparation and the different phases of farming, from planting to harvesting, for a 10,000-hectare area of agricultural land, and have trained Sudanese farmers in new and large-scale farming methods," he said.

In addition, he said, "We have an agreement with Khartoum Agriculture University for the training of 250 agricultural technicians a year and also with Sudan's Agriculture Ministry for the training of seven experts a year."

A five-hectare land in the Wadi Ramli region has also been test- planted with peanuts for the first time in that country, the construction jihad minister said.

On Iran's contributions to the health services of Sudan, Foruzesh said, "One of the major health projects that the Jihad Ministry recently completed in Sudan is a 60-bed hospital in a village called Umm Zo'ouban [placename as published], with ten general and specialized departments, where an average of 300 patients a day and four surgery operations a week are performed."

He said the ministry has also published two volumes of nursing books in Arabic which are currently being used in nursing schools there.

"The ministry has restored many hospitals, equipped their operation sections with advanced facilities and supplied them with radiology facilities, ambulances, audio-visual devices and large quantities of medicine to be distributed among the villages in 32 different regions," Foruzesh emphasized.

He finally talked about the educational activities of the Construction Jihad Ministry in Sudan, saying "We have focused on providing training for Sudanese women."

He said that in the Fatimah Zahra (S) [peace be upon her] Training Center which was established in 1994, certificates have been given to some 900 Sudanese ladies who have completed training in income-generating activities such as sewing, computer operation, typing and accounting.

Yemeni Envoy Praises Tehran's Role in Region

LD1311114295 Tehran IRNA in English
1111 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA — A senior Yemeni diplomat said Tehran and Sanaa play significant roles in regional stability.

Yemeni Ambassador to Tehran 'Abdallah 'Ali al-Radhi [name as received] in an interview with the English-language daily 'IRAN NEWS' printed on Monday, said, "Iran proved to be a sincere and friendly country during the unification process of Yemen in 1990 and 1991 period of turmoil."

"Yemenis will never forget the assistance given by Iran in our critical days," said al-Radhi.

The ambassador added, "It was very nice when an Iranian delegation, led by Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati attended unification ceremonies on May 22, 1990 in Sanaa."

Communist South Yemen and pro-West North Yemen were united in 1990. That unity, however, remained on paper since both sides had deep-rooted cultural, administrative and political differences along with a variety of tribal rivalries.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Baydh (former rulers of North and South Yemen respectively) remained at odds from the very beginning of the unification process.

After the end of the crisis, the government announced a general amnesty and many dissidents returned home, the ambassador said. Al-Radhi added, "My country faced an unwanted situation, but Iran gave moral and political support to us for which we are grateful."

He said the Iran-Yemen joint commission for economic and commercial cooperation is playing an important role in enhancing the two countries' trade ties.

The first meeting of the joint commission was held in Tehran and the second will soon be held in San'a'.

Iran's Minister of Construction Jihad Gholam Reza Foruzesh and Yemen's deputy prime minister and minister of planning and development 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba Jammal co-chair the joint commission meeting.

Iran recently organized four trade fairs in Sanaa and one in Aden which were successful, al-Radhi said.

He said several plans are in the pipeline which will boost Irano-Yemen ties in diversified ways.

This is the second time al-Radhi serves his country in Tehran. He was Yemen's charge d'affaires here between 1980-1990 before he went to Bombay, India as consul-general for four years.

"Yemen believes in having friendly ties with all its neighbors," al-Radhi said, adding, "The recent visit of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Riyadh was fruitful and the two countries' bilateral relations are quite satisfactory."

Yemen has a serious problem with Saudi Arabia about a disputed land on the two countries' common border which is believed to be rich in crude oil. Bilateral relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia deteriorated when Yemen supported Iraq in the Persian Gulf war.

Without going into details, al-Radhi said, "Saudis are showing goodwill and we are also reciprocating and our relations are now amiable."

Envoy Gives President's Message to Sultan Qabus

LD1511173695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the expansion of mutual ties and ways of increasing cooperation was delivered by our country's ambassador at a meeting with Sultan Qabus, the ruler of Oman.

According to a Central News Unit report, Sultan Qabus expressed his gratitude for our country's president's message. He praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's

Government for its wise policy in the region. He asked that his warm greetings and those of the government and the people of Oman be conveyed to the honorable president and nation of Iran.

At the meeting, which took place yesterday, important regional and international issues and the next Gulf Cooperation Council summit were discussed.

President Visits Kordestan, Delivers Address

LD1511135395 Tehran IRNA in English
1153 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Nov. 15, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Sanandaj, the capital of this western Iranian province, Wednesday morning and was warmly welcomed by a number of local political and military officials including the representative of leader here.

In remarks on his arrival at airport, the president told reporters that meeting with provincial people, identifying the needs and potentials of the region and assessing the services rendered by the government are the main objectives of his trip to the province.

Appreciating provincial officials for their efforts in reconstructing the province, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that his trip would produce fruitful results for the people of the region.

A large number of people, lining up the steets leading to the Sanandaj airport, threw flowers and sacrificed scores of sheep ahead of the car carrying the president, shouting such slogans as as "Long live Khamane'i" and "Long live Hashemi-Rafsanjani".

All corners of the city assumed a new face with streets being illuminated and people playing music and dancing all over the town to wlecome their beloved president.

Minister of energy, Namdar-Zangeneh, Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, minister of agriculture, 'Isa Kalantari, Post Telegraph and Telephone Minister Seyyed Mohammad Gharazi, and Vice-President for Executive Affairs Mohammad Hashemi are accompanying the president.

Later in the day, the president addressing a large gathering of local people, said that the extensive contribution of Iranian Kurdish people to the reconstruction efforts of the country proved to enemies that they should do away with biased and poisonous propaganda (against Iran) and revise their views on this part of Islamic Iran.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the people of Kordistan once again shown their faith in and love for the revolution and the Islamic system.

Those who cannot see such emotion, feelings and laudable resistance of Iranian Kurdish people lack good eyesight, the president said.

The president also lauded the families of war disabled veterans in this province for their patience, resistance and love for the Islamic revolution.

Further on Speech

LD1611064495 Tehran IRNA in English
2119 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Nov. 15, IRNA —President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here on Wednesday thanked the people of Sanandaj for the warm welcome accorded to him today and said what happened in the streets of Sanandaj today indicated the strong attachment and love of the people for the Islamic revolution and its sacred goals.

Specifically referring to the trying times of the eight years of Iraqi-imposed war (1980-1988), the president stated that he was quite familiar with the people of Kordestan Province, adding that they were among the most loyal people to Islam and the Islamic revolution and that he considered them to be very good border guards for their Islamic country.

The president said given the fact that considerable number of martyrs during the imposed war were from Kordestan Province indicated that these people have always been present in different sequences of events of the revolution to protect the accomplishments of the Islamic revolution.

The president appreciated the role of the Shi'ite and Sunnite clerics and pointed to martyrdom of the two clerics, Karimian and Fahimi at the hands of mercenaries, counter revolutionaries and foreign agents in Kordestan Province.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that the unity between the Shi'ite and Sunnite communities in the province is due to the steadfastness of the two Kurdish communities and the spilled blood of the dedicated clerics in these two communities for the sake of Islam and the Islamic revolution. He indicated that some parts of the sacrifices have not come into light yet.

The president referred to the appropriate geographical and climatic conditions in Kordestan Province which was favorable for the promotion of agriculture, industry, livestock, and processing industry.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani underlined that the manpower and high talent of people in the province have helped Kordistan Province attain a special status. He said, "the province is also rich in terms of history and culture and we have planned to activate the high potentials here." The president said the province deserves to receive more attention in the reconstruction era.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said water and food would be the world's crucial issue within the next years and that Kordestan can be transformed into an important agricultural and industrial pole of the country.

He hoped that the government would pay special attention to Kordestan province in the second development plan so that there would be no more deprived areas in the province..

He said the vigilant clerics, the families of the martyrs and war veterans and the youth of the province are the major assets for reconstruction period of Kordestan.

He said, "we hope with restoration of peace and security in the neighboring Iraq, the people would turn their attention to development and reconstruction programs."

Significance of President's Kordestan Trip Noted

NC1611084595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 16 Nov 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday the zealous people of Kordestan extended an extremely warm and fervent welcome to the president, who is on his first official visit to the area. Among his trips to various parts of the country, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Kordestan Province has special political and economic significance, because Kordestan Province was the refuge and hideout of a counter-revolution for years. Foreign mass media concentrated a major part of their negative propaganda on this area, which now represents the renewal of the people's bonds with officials. Shiites and Sunnis, clergymen and nonclergymen are enthusiastically rushing to welcome the president.

The big crowd that gathered along the 10-km route between Sanandaj Airport and the city center and the cheerful faces of the people trying to push to the front to welcome the president showed the popular character of the Islamic revolution and Kordestan's uniformity and faithfulness to the revolution goals.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's four-day visit to Kordestan Province shows that this talented and martyr-nurturing area has left behind the adversity created by the counter-revolution at the start of the Islamic Republic and has now started a new era of political security and economic growth.

Political observers say that while the Kurdish areas in Iraq and Turkey have always suffered acute political and military crises and bloodshed, the official visit by the Iranian president to Kordestan Province, and meetings with the public, clearly show the stability and security that are paving the way for reconstruction in the region. When, in his remarks to the families of the martyrs of the province, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke about 4,000 honorable martyrs from the area and the lessons taught to history by the disabled, martyrs, and MIA's from Kordestan, he was actually speaking about the secret of Kordestan's durability and the bonds between its people and the Islamic system.

Emphasis on Kordestan's economic capabilities and the implementation of various development, industrial, and agricultural projects in this region also helps to reveal the significance of the president's visit. In relation with this, that four vice presidents and 17 cabinet ministers are accompanying him proves that the government has extensive programs for Kordestan's economic development. Some 2,000 projects are being implemented to end deprivation in Kordestan Province. The construction of 14 dams is being studied, while one dam is already being constructed, heralding a better future for this talented region.

In view of the special attention paid by the government to the deprived area of Kordestan and with the preparation of the grounds for reconstruction and the implementation of various projects, this area of our country is expected to make up for past shortcomings and start moving toward development and progress.

Rowhani Views Elections, Economy, Privatization

LD1311202295 Tehran IRNA in English 1928 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA — Majles vice-speaker, Hasan Rowhani said here on Monday [13 November] that people have decisive role in the destiny of the nation and the public opinion in Iran indicate that the nation puts full trust in and has confidence in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Speaking at a press conference with Turkish T.V. Channel 7, he pointed out that the overwhelming presence of the people to warmly welcome the officials in the different parts of Iran and specifically the warm welcome given to the leader of Islamic revolution, the big turnout in both parliamentary and presidential elections, exhibit people's interest and confidence in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Asked about whether or not he would stand for the forthcoming presidential elections, he said that it is too soon to decide on such an important issue as the presidential elections will be held in two years' time.

Rowhani stated in the meantime the parliamentary elections are approaching and he would have time to meditate upon this matter once the makeup of the fifth Majles becomes obvious.

Elaborating on the economic growth in the country, the vice-speaker said proper programing, efficient management by the officials, active presence of the people in the construction and reconstruction programs, optimum use of the available potentialities and rich natural resourees and arable land for promotion of agriculture, have served to bring about an economic growth in Iran.

On developing private sector, Rowhani said the government has not been very successful in that area. He underlined that not only has the Majles put emphasis on expanding privatization but the government also believes in doing the same thing.

He ended saying, "I, myself support privatization and believe that the government can not be a good industrialist or a top agriculturist."

Conditions for Elections Participation Viewed

NC1611122495 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 31 Oct 95 p 1

[Editorial by 'Alireza Shemirani: "Blank Check"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Why have some elements that considered themselves radicals and leftists not adopted a liberal position?

We asked this question 30 October and related it to what these gentlemen themselves have said: "A major part of the positions and opinions of groups depends on whether or not they have a share in power." Let us continue our discussion.

1. If we consider that there is a direct link between the stands of groups and their presence or absence in power, the end will justify the means. In other words, to achieve power! we will resort to any means, regardless of whether this will mean slaughtering the people's religious values and beliefs or annihilating and insulting opponents. Incidentally, on this basis, crushing the opponent not only becomes permissible but necessary, because the main issue in this case is how to acquire power!—something on which the pattern of democracy in the West is based. Propaganda in the West does not focus on how to prove whether someone is competent or capable, but on how to destroy the opponent and throw him out of the scene.

2. They say that if parties are not active in political-social fields, their participation in determining their own fate will be insipid as well.

There is no doubt that the presence of parties increases enthusiasm, zeal, and alertness in the issue of determining the fate of each and every member of society. And although political parties have not been activated in a long time, that their participation in determining their own fate is meaningless is far from reality.

Those who say that parties need to be active have never wanted to answer this question: Why have they themselves not formed a party? And if they have formed a party or a group and have received the necessary permit, why do they not start their activities?! It seems that the problem is not one of forming parties and groups and receiving permits. The problem is in the outlook toward parties that some people in the Islamic society have. In other words, what circumstances does an Islamic society, with a framework delineated by the Constitution, demand? What are the criteria and yardsticks? What are the values and anti-values? What is the philosophy on forming parties in this type of society and what is the difference between this philosophy and the philosophy on the formation of parties in non-Islamic (and specifically Western) societies?

If we do not find correct and comprehensive answers to these questions, naturally even if a party or a group is formed and becomes active, the party will rapidly face a crisis and will have two options: either to dissolve itself, or to temporarily suspend its activities.

3. Recently, when some political elements that belong to certain organizations or groups were asked whether they will put forth a candidate for the elections, they answered that this will depend on circumstances! And then they put forth a thousand and one conditions—very similar to the Koran story of Bani-Isra'il's cow.

His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, stated that we should carry out our duties and not think about what we will gain as a result. In other words, performing our duties is a rule without an exception, and we cannot put forth conditions for participating in the elections.

Making active participation in the elections contingent on meeting certain conditions can only mean having power in mind and not the need to carry out revolutionary-religious! duties. In this case, only a blank check for participation in the elections can resolve problems because it is possible that even if all the conditions are met, not receiving the people's votes will act as an obstacle. That is something for which there is no solution.

Majles Approves Flogging, Fines for Profiteers

LD1411175995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Seven more articles of the Islamic Penal Code were ratified at today's Majles session.

According to the articles, anyone who collects and keeps foodstuffs or goods needed by the people — on the assumption that they are scarce on the market so their price will rise — will be considered a hoarder and, in addition to being obliged to sell the goods at approved prices, will be sentenced to flogging and must pay fines up to 10 times the value of the goods.

The Majles has also approved that the punishment for profiteering will be flogging and the payment of fines up to 10 times the value of the goods.

According to another approved article any action that is considered a danger to public health is forbidden, and offenders will be sentenced to imprisonment for up to a year. [passage omitted]

Islamic Punishment Approved

LD1511132995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Thirteen more articles of the bill on Islamic punishment, the section on the State Penal Code on punishments related to offenses in business and trade, were approved by today's open session of the Majles.

According to a Central News Unit report, on the basis of the articles approved, anyone who undermines the supply of people's vital needs and essential goods in such a way as to create inconvenience and hardship to people will be sentenced to 19 months to three years imprisonment. Also, anyone who turns a particular location or shop into their own business for the sale and purchase of government coupons will be imprisoned for up to five years and liable to pay a fine of up to 10 million rials.

The setting up of illegal medical institutions by unqualified individuals and refusal of officials in charge of medical centers to accept and offer first aid to people in need of urgent medical help; the employment of doctors who do not possess a legal permit; the opening of pharmacies without a license; leaving a medical, pharmaceutical, or pharmaceutical production establishment unattended by the technical official in charge, or by the physician; and the unjustified closing of a surgery or drugstore or other medical establishments, which are supposed to be open during a fixed set of hours, will carry fines of 3 to 6 million rials in cash and/or six months to one year's imprisonment.

The cash fines for hoarding and profiteering from the sale of pharmaceuticals and dried milk will be double the punishments stipulated for hoarding and profiteering from the sale of other goods. [passage omitted]

Officials Responsible for Plane Crash Sentenced

LD1511215595 Tehran IRNA in English 2142 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Esfahan, Nov. 15, IRNA — The verdicts of an open trial of those responsible for the technical negligence in a Fokker passenger plane which resulted into a crash 10 minutes after its take-off on a domestic flight from Esfahan to Tehran last year, was announced later on Wednesday. Four people were sentenced to two years in prison, one person to six months and two people were acquitted.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdolkarim Rezvani who presided over the case said at a press conference that the managing-director of Asseman Airlines, 'Ali Abedzadeh, technical assistant, Iraj Runaqi, acting deputy director for the technical department, Ezatollah Baba'i Kashkaki, the deputy managing-director for flight standard of Asseman airlines, 'Abdolreza Vafa'i, each was sentenced to a term of two years of imprisonment. While the head of the technical group of Fokker-28 was sentenced to six months.

The other two accused, Mohammad 'Ali Hoseynnzadeh, man in charge of control tower at Mehrabad Airport, and Seyyed Razi Musavi, the head of the technical team on duty of Asseman airlines, were found not guilty. The head of the special court said those found guilty are required to pay compensation to the bereaved families within two years.

Pakistan

Editorials View Explosion in Saudi Arabia

U.S. Military Presence Questioned

BK1511095395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 15 Nov 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Riyadh Bomb Attack"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The worldwide network of the U.S. military establishments, performing a wide range of functions but, essentially an expression of the American urge to call the shots, have always been vulnerable to becoming targets for politically motivated violence. The phenomenon has, however, been on the decline since the demise of the Cold War and the emergence of the U.S. as the undisputed global overlord. But, of all the places in the world, a bomb attack on the U.S. military office would have been least expected in the Saudi capital - Riyadh. Unlike 'trouble spots' in the Third World where American presence has had more than its share of popular disapproval and hostility, often triggering violent mass agitations, Saudi Arabia was deemed to have offered a safe haven to the American military personnel. And none of the factors were operative in the kingdom which normally pose a threat to the security of American installations or servicemen posted abroad. Above all, the Saudi royal family rules the country with an iron hand, neither allowing political dissent nor any breach of law and order, and the society has by and large, been apolitical. Whoever has been responsible for the attack, which has killed five Americans and blown apart the three-story building being used for the U.S. Army security assistance programme, has registered a warning signal. Not withstanding the stringent administration, there is no place safe enough for the Americans to escape the vengeance of force committed to employ all the tricks of the trade to fight the U.S.-led new world order. An unknown group calling itself 'Tigers of the Gulf,' has claimed responsibility for the attack, saying the 'attacks will continue till the departure of the last American soldier form Saudi Arabia'. Whether or not the said group has any political roots in the country has yet to be ascertained, and it is quite possible that it may have been sponsored by a foreign country, but the bomb attack has brought home the message that 'anti-Americanism' is still the catchword for arousing nationalist sentiment.

President Clinton has promptly called the blast 'an outrage' and vowed to bring those responsible to justice. The Americans would, needless to say, term it as another expression of international terrorism, the menace they have promised to fight out as top priority and for which they are seeking cooperation from other nations. While acts of terrorism need to be condemned, the 'causes' which drive people to desperation also call for just and suitable solutions. And the Americans owe an explanation for sustaining their massive network of 'outposts' on foreign soils, which logically should have become obsolete in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet power bloc. So long as the U.S. is prone to wielding the big stick, the possibility of an nationalist resurgence across the Third World, militant and outspokenly anti-American, cannot be ruled out, and the so-called sanctuaries of U.S. influence would be in a tight spot encountering popular sentiment.

Warning to Saudia Arabia

BK1511125395 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 15 Nov 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Saudi Arabia's New Vulnerability"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SAUDI ARABIA, one of the world's most conservative and closed societies, experienced an unusual shock Monday when a powerful bomb ripped through U.S. military offices in Riyadh, killing at least five Americans and injuring sixty other people. The bombing was later claimed by two groups, The Tigers of the Gulf and the Islamic Movement for Change, demanding the departure of U.S. forces from Saudi Arabia. The former group has threatened more bombing until what it says the departure of the last American from Saudi Arabia.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has vowed that Washington would devote enormous efforts to finding out who is behind the blast. The United States has a 50-year-long history of cooperation with the Saudis, and it is the first time that its nationals have been made the victims of violence.

Even during the height of the Gulf War, there were no terrorist attacks against American military personnel stationed in Saudi Arabia. The number of American soldiers in the kingdom has now been scaled down from half a million to 25,000. However their presence has generated a strong current of resentment among a section of Saudis who view their country's subservience to the United States as unacceptable.

The Americans are in Saudi Arabia not because they want to defend democracy, for this term applies to none of the Gulf states. They are there partly because of the oil, but in recent years their presence is aimed at thwarting Iraq's expansionist designs. The West is also using the Saudis for containing the Iranian threat and the repression of what it calls the revolutionary Islamic fundamentalism. As for the Saudis, they are confronted with two key questions: (a) can they keep their domestic political structure intact and (b) whether the vast amount of weapons they buy from the West can satisfy their ceaseless quest for security.

The Saudi monarchy continues to play the murky game of inter-Arab politics with the unspoken and effective shield of American military support. At home, critics of the monarchy have shown some resilence despite ruthless repressive measures.

There are reasons to believe that these critics, mostly wedded to Islamic revivalism, have their contacts with similar movements across the Islamic world. The fact that the Saudis have been encouraging both Israel and Palestinians to solidify their peace deal is also viewed with particular contempt by the Islamic radicals. King Fahd has always appeared disinclined to introduce elective government in his kingdom. It is a pity that he has sought, time and again, to impart an Islamic gloss to the unrepresentative character of his rule.

The West has blinked at the absence of democracy in Saudi Arabia because of its vested interest.

Monday's blast has come as a warning that [word indistinct] cannot be held under a tight lid for a longtime even in Saudi Arabia. Indeed, we all live in an age of transition. Apparently this is not being understood by the Saudi royalty.

Interior Ministry Orders Tighter Security

BK1611044295 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 15 Nov 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Translated Text] According to very reliable sources extra ordinary measures have been adopted on emergency basis for the security of government offices and buildings in the federal capital. The decision about these measures was made in a high level meeting of the Ministry of Interior. Checking of people coming into Islamabad and vigilance on the routes connecting Islamabad with other cities have also been made very strict. It has been learnt that all the government officers and staff have been instructed to park their cars only in the specified parking area. They have been told not to park their vehicles close to the federal secretariat or any other government buildings or on the roadside. According to the sources cars of federal ministers and federal secretaries are exempt form this restriction. It has been decided that any car parked close to the building or on the roadside will be impounded immediately and punitive action will be taken against the owner/driver of the vehicle. Government officials have been asked to inform their guests also about these orders. Reliable sources told JANG that the government was told by the surveillance agencies to take immediate security steps in view of the growing incidents of terrorism and subversion in various parts of the world and particularly in view of the dangerous designs of Pakistan's enemies. On receiving this information new security measures have been enforced.

Negotiators Reply to Altaf Group on Karachi Issue

BK1611094095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Professor N.D. Khan, leader of the government team negotiating on the Karachi situation, has said that a reply to the letter from the Altaf Group team leader has been sent so that the talks to restore peace in Karachi can be resumed. He expressed the hope that the Altaf Group negotiating team would contact him soon and their response would be positive. Professor N.D. Khan told APP in Islamabad yesterday that if Ajmal Dehlvi wants to brief his leadership, he can go to London.

Ajmal Dehlvi, leader of the Altaf Group team, confirmed the receipt of the letter from the government. He said in Karachi last night that they were meeting this evening to decide about the resumption of the government-Altaf Group talks on the Karachi situation.

In Karachi, the Saudabad police have arrested four terrorists and recovered a large amount of arms and ammunition. The police said the accused belong to the Altaf Group's Rehan Kana gang and were involved in a number of murders, robberies, arsons, and police encounters. They were Akram, Afsar, Shahid Habib, and Ahmad, son of Alamgir.

Retired Officer Lauds Decision To Expose Coup

BK1611053695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, chief of Tehrik-i-Istiqlal, has lauded the government's decision to inform the nation about the coup attempt by some Army officers. Talking to newsmen in Lahore yesterday, he said that he was in favor of the establishment of a neutral, powerful body for initiating the accountability process in the country.

Opposition Demands Civil Trial for Coup Plotters

BK1611083495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 Nov 95 p 1

["NNI" report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (NNI) [expansion unknown] — The Combined Opposition in Senate has demanded that the Army Officers allegedly involved in "Army revolt case" should be tried in an open court of law.

The Parliamentary party meeting of the Combined Opposition in Senate was held here on Wednesday. The Senate Opposition Leader Raja Zafarul Haq presided over the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Senators affiliated with PML (N) [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz], ANP [Awami National Party], MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement], Jamiat Ahle Hadith, JI [Jammat-i-Islami], Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) [Fazlur Rahman Group], Jamiat-e Ulema-i-Pakistan (Niazi), JWP [Jamhoori Watan Party] and Independents.

After the conclusion of the meeting, Raja Zafar ul-Haq while talking to a group of newsmen at his chamber said, the meeting had decided unanimously to demand of the government that the arrested "rebel" army officers should be tried in a civil court of law.

He added Opposition also wants Senate Committee for Defence to also probe into this sensitive issue and take into confidence Director General ISI [Inter Service Intelligence], Secretary Defence and other high ups about the true picture of the situation. Raja Zafarul Haq said the other day, government's statement about the issue was not enough to satisfy the common masses. Rather it deepened the doubts and confusion about the whole affair.

He said, the government version claims that the arrested Army officers wanted to bring about an Islamic revolution and 13 commando uniforms have been recovered. "How can 13 commandos bring about a revolution," he asked.

He further said there are 3-4 points in the official statement which are not acceptable to even a person with average intelligence. The issue has been deliberately complicated with conflicting statements.

In the beginning the impression was created that the officers had merely committed "indiscipline" whereas now it is being propagated that they wanted to stage a coup for establishing Islamic order in the country.

Two Opinions on Prosecuting Coup Plotters Noted

BK1611090695 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Nov 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Aroosa Alam: "What kind of trial the plotters will face?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Nov 15 — As the Adjutant General (AG&JAG [Judge Advocate General]) Branch of the GHQ [General Headquarters] is examining the evidence to formally frame charges against the coup plotters Major General Zaheerul Islam Ansari, Brigadier Mustanser Billah and other three Colonels there are two opinions as to under which sections of the Army Act the plotters should be tried.

There is an opinion that the plotters be tried under section 31 of Chapter V of the Army Act 1952 titled Mutiny and Insubordination. It provides for capital punishment under the charges of mutiny.

However there is a diverse opinion which says that the officers can only be tried under Section 55 or 57 of Chapter V of the Army Act 1952 which deals with disciplinary matters.

Section 31 of Chapter V of Army Act 1952 titled Mutiny and Insubordination reads: any person subject to this act who commits any of the following offenses, that is to say:

a) begins, incites, causes, or conspires with any other person to cause, or joins in, any mutiny in the military, naval or air forces of Pakistan or any forces cooperating therewith; or;
b) being present at any such mutiny, does not use his utmost endeavours to suppress the same; or;
c) Knowing or having reasons to believe in the existence of any such mutiny or any intention to commit such mutiny, or of any such conspiracy, does not without reasonable delay give information thereof to his commanding or other superior officer or;
d) Attempts to seduce any person in the military, naval or air forces of Pakistan from his duty or his allegiance to the Government of Pakistan; shall, on conviction by court martial, be punished with death or with, such less punishment as is in this Act mentioned.

On the other hand Section 55 of Chapter V of the Army Act 1952 titled Violation of Good Order and Discipline Reads:

— Any person subject to this Act who is guilty of any act, conduct, disorder or neglect to the prejudice of good order and of military discipline shall, on conviction by court martial be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years, or with, such less punishment as is in this Act mentioned.

The section 57 of Chapter V of the Army Act 1952 says:

— Any person subject to this Act who attempts to commit any offence before in this act specified and in such attempt does any act towards the commission of the offence shall, on conviction of court martial, where no express provision is made by this act for the punishment of such attempts, be punished, if the offence attempted to be committed is punishable with death, for a term which may extend to 14 years or with such less punishment as is in this Act mentioned, or

— If the offence attempted to be committed is punishable with rigorous imprisonment, with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to one-half of the long term provided for that offence, or with such less punishment as is in his Act mentioned.

Ever since the story was broken by Senator Tariq Chaudry some five weeks ago, officials in the GHQ had maintained privately that the whole issue was army's internal matter relating to violation of discipline by some officers. Therefore, the experts claim that there are chances that the officers may be tried under Section 55 of the Army Act which deals with disciplinary matter. They argue that it may be a very difficult task to prove the intentions of this small group of religiously motivated officers under Section 31 of Army Act especially when the rules of the evidence are to be same as in criminal courts under Section 12 of the Army Act.

The command structure of Pakistan Army which is primarily based on the British pattern does not allow much room for officers to indulge in adventurism who do not hold important position. Such plots can only be executed by people holding operational command and are located at strategically sensitive positions and are placed to enjoy the confidence and support of majority of formation commanders and their troops.

According to sources close to GHQ, the statement given by the Defense Minister in the Upper House on Tuesday has left many flabbergasted in the General Headquarters. They say a wave of unrest has passed through the middle and lower ranks of Pakistan Army over the sad and incomprehensible tale of coup attempt to eliminate the troika by some army officers most of whom were not holding any operational appointments to have effectively conducted the alleged operation.

According to defense experts the statement by the Defense Minister has left many questions unanswered. They say that those who are familiar with the fool proof procedures and security arrangements to have access to the GHQ, find it extremely difficult to believe that some hired assassins could storm the Corps Commanders Conference Hall to eliminate the military leadership.

According to sources close to the GHQ the Summary of Evidence has been recorded and it is not yet known whether the defendants have contested the charges or asked for a legal help. It is believed that the Court Martial will be convened soon to try the guilty officers. Two civilians Sofi Iqbal and Mufti Ubaid will also be tried in a military court. According to section 1 clause (d) of Chapter 1 (Preliminary) of Army Act seducing or attempting to seduce any person subject to Army Act from his duty or allegiance to Government will be tried under the Army laws. The section 80 of the Chapter IX of Army Act provides for four kinds of courts martial. Those are:

(1) General Courts Martial;
(2) Districts Court Martial;
(3) Field General Courts Martial; and
(4) Summary Courts Martial.

The Section 81 of the Act says a general court martial may be convened by the Chief of Army Staff [COAS] or by an officer empowered in this behalf by warrant of the COAS. The Section 82 says: A District Court Martial may be convened by an authority having power to convene a general court martial or by an officer empowered in this behalf by a warrant of any such authority. The section 84 of the act reads:

The following authorities shall have power to convene a field general court martial namely:

(a) an officer empowered in this behalf by an order of the Federal Government of the Chief of Army Staff,
(b) On active service, an officer commanding a portion of Pakistan Army, not below the rank of Brigadier, such opinion to be recorded in writing and to be conclusive, it is not practicable with due regard to discipline and the exigencies of the service to try alleged offender by a General Court Martial. Section 85 of the Act says that the General Court Martial shall not consist of not less than five officers each of whom has held a commission for not less than three years and of whom not less than our are of a rank not below that of a captain.

Section 87 of the Act provides for a Field General Court Martial which shall consist of not less than three officers. But the section is completely silent over the ranks of the officers to constitute the court. It is believed that the alleged offenders would be tried under the Field General Court Martial. Since one of the accused is a Major General it is expected that the court may be headed by a Lt. General.

Under the section 99 of the Act, a General of Field General Court Martial shall have power to try any person subject to the Army Act for any offense made punishable their in, and pass any sentence authorized by this Act.

Under Section 104 of the Act, the President and members shall be read over to the accused, who shall there upon be asked whether he objects to being tried by any officer sitting on the court.

Under Section 105 of the Act every decision of a Court Martial shall be passed by an absolute majority of votes; and where there is an equality of votes as to either finding sentence, the decision shall be in favor of the accused; provided that no sentence of death shall be passed without the concurrence, in the case of a General Court Martial of at least two-thirds of the members and, in the case of a Field General Court Martial of all the members of the court.

Editorial Views Fallout From Abortive Coup

BK1611091395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 Nov 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Abortive coup"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At long last, the government has come out with an official statement regarding the arrest of a group of Army officers, bringing an end to speculative theories about their motives and modus operandi. Defence Minister, Aftab Shaban Mirani, acknowledged in the Senate that the accused, who included a Major General, a Brigadier and three Colonels, were conspiring to stage a military coup in the country. Their game plan, according to the Defence Minister, was to storm the Corps Commanders Conference, scheduled in September, eliminate the military top brass, arrest the President and the Prime Minister, and proclaim a self-styled 'Islamic state'. The ring leader, according to the coup plan, was to declare himself Chief of the Army Staff and Ameer-ul-Momineen [chief of the believers]. 'Substantial evidence to overthrow the government, besides arms and equipment, has been recovered form the accused,' Mirani said. Now that the 'hush-hush affair' has been brought into the open, and the arrested Army officers officially charged with as serious an offence as a plot to overthrow, a free-for-all public debate is likely to follow, raising scores of questions about the abortive coup. Prima facie, it looks like a reckless venture and the plotters, who the Defence Minister said were a disgruntled lot, passed over for promotion, must have gone crackers to aspire for seizing power with a nucleus of a dozen Army officers and hired mercenaries to do the dirty work. Their 'Islamic fundamentalist connection', which was blown out of proportion in the media, following reports emanating form different sources of a pronounced religious orientation of the principal actors in the coup plan, has now been termed by the Defence Minister as a 'disguise for personal ambition'. Notwithstanding a handful of civilians who it is said, were roped into the plot to run errands, no evidence of a political hand has been found, and the Defense Minister has said in categorical terms that no political or religious organization is invoked in the conspiracy. Ironically, the Jammat-i-Islami Chief had been quick to respond to projections of an 'Islamic coup bid', dismissing accusations as an attempt to malign honest and pious Army officers who, he said, he knew personally. Among numerous theories regarding the origin of the episode, a popular version that has now been contradicted by the government attributed the arrested Army officers' involvement in gun-running to their fervor for Kashmir Jihad, and they were said to have been buying arms for Kashmiri freedom fighters in particular Hizb-e Islami, the militant Kashmiri group affiliated with the Jammat. It is pertinent to recall that almost all the Army officers involved in the 1951 Rawalpindi conspiracy case were associated with the Kashmir war, and critical of the government's Kashmir policy. It, nevertheless, did not save them form being convicted for conspiracy to overthrow the government. Regardless of how politicians of various hues, particularly those belonging to the Opposition, would view the 'abortive coup' in the wake of the government's explanation, it would be in the fitness of things to pass judgment dispassionately and without falling prey to the usual point-scoring political agenda. The matter is far too serious to be held hostage to partisan politics and calls for a consensus approach for devising ways and means to purge the armed forces of 'Bonapartist tendencies', and forestall the chances of 'soldiers of fortune' trying to aspire for role which does not belong to them.

Sri Lanka

Government Troops Slow Down Advance on Jaffna

BK1511134795 Hong Kong AFP in English 1322 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Nov 15 (AFP) — Sri Lankan troops Wednesday slowed down their offensive on the Tamil Tiger stronghold of Jaffna after seizing a key town nearby, although the army vowed it would still conquer the rebel citadel.

Thousands of soldiers advancing along two axes began to dig-in in the newly-captured areas as they touched the outskirts of Jaffna town, capital of a de facto state run by the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"We are digging in," an army spokesman said here, acknowledging there had been heavy fighting early in the day. "Our purpose is to consolidate areas we have captured from the LTTE so far before advancing again," he added.

LTTE guerrillas have been putting up stiff resistance, military sources admitted, saying that the army's eastern flank was slowed down earlier by unending mortar and heavy machine-gun fire. But military officials insist they remain determined to take Jaffna town in order to deal a severe blow to the LTTE, which has controlled the sprawling Jaffna peninsula in the island's north since 1990.

Some 15,000 soldiers are taking part in the month-old offensive aimed at smashing up the LTTE state, which has been an eyesore to Sri Lankan authorities. "We can't say when we will take Jaffna town, but take it we will," an army officer said.

Military and Tamil sources said Jaffna had become a ghost town since the sudden pullout late Tuesday of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), present in the region since 1990. The ICRC shifted its medical staff to the nearby port of Point Pedro, but first called upon the government and LTTE not to damage the medical equipment it was leaving behind in Jaffna town. "Only the Bishop of Jaffna is now left (in the town) together with a few elderly people too sick to travel," one relief worker said.

Army officials say they expect the fighting for Jaffna town to be bloody. "The intensive and widespread shelling of (Jaffna town) has rendered it impossible for the ICRC to function with safety," the LTTE said on Wednesday in a statement issued from its London office.

The ICRC move came as troops inched closer to Jaffna after capturing the LTTE's political headquarters and main administrative offices at Kondavil town, dealing a terrible blow to the Tamil Tigers. At least 322 soldiers and nearly 1,400 guerrillas have been killed in the offensive, launched on October 17. It is the biggest such army drive against the LTTE since May 1987.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan authorities tightened security at hospitals in Sri Lanka amid fears of bomb attacks by the LTTE. The police said patients would henceforth be allowed only two visitors each to reduce crowds at hospitals. The security step came as police kept up a search for up to 30 LTTE suicide bombers believed to have infiltrated the capital in a bid to assassinate Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratrunga. The government last month closed all schools in the country following intelligence reports that the LTTE may bomb some of them to avenge its military setbacks in Jaffna.

Army sources said the LTTE was running low on weapons and cadres and was desperate in the face of the military's superior firepower and determination to take Jaffna town.

More than 50,000 people have died in the LTTE's protracted drive for a homeland called Eelam in Sri Lanka's northeast. The LTTE says the Tamils, Sri Lanka's minority community, are discriminated by the majority Sinhalese.

LTTE Claims Government Troops 'Pinned Down'

BK1611050595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0443 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Nov 16 (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas said Thursday [16 November] that they had pinned down thousands of Sri Lankan troops advancing on their bastion of Jaffna in the island's embattled north.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a statement received here from London that its guerrillas had "kept the army pinned down at Kondavil (town) and several attempts by the army to break through have failed. "

The army reached Kondavil, about 2.5 kilometres (1.5 miles) from Jaffna's outskirts, on Monday.

"Frustrated, the Sri Lankan forces have unleashed a barrage of artillery and mortar shells towards Jaffna (town)," the capital of a de facto state the LTTE has run in Sri Lanka's north since 1990, the statement said.

Military officials here denied the claim, saying Kondavil, where the LTTE had maintained its main political offices, had fallen to the Sri Lankan army on Monday.

"We are firmly in control of Kondavil and have in fact pressed ahead," a military official said.

The LTTE statement said "several thousand troops backed by tanks and armoured vehicles have made very slow progress in their ... latest offensive to capture Jaffna (town)."

Sri Lanka ordered a major military offensive on October 17 to capture the sprawling Jaffna peninsula from the Tigers, who are fighting for an independent homeland called Eelam in the country's northeast.

The offensive has left at least 322 soldiers and 1,400 guerrillas dead and thousands of others wounded on both sides. The LTTE's protracted Eelam campaign has also left more than 50,000 dead over two decades.

Government Troops Within 2.5 km of Jaffna

BK1611112195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Troops of Operation Riviresa are now only two and a half kilometers from Jaffna town. They have advanced about three-fourth of a kilometer past the Jaffna bus depot. The security forces are also consolidating their positions in areas liberated from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. The terrorists launched several attacks on forward defense positions yesterday and this morning. All of them were successfully repulsed. The security forces now control a large area of the Jaffna peninsula, and several major LTTE bastions have fallen. The Army has also captured a number of terrorist training camps.

Government Offers Reward for LTTE Leader's Arrest

BK1511134895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1337 GMT 15 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 15 (AFP) — Sri Lanka on Wednesday [15 November] announced an unprecedented reward of 25 million rupees (500,000 dollars) for the arrest of Tamil Tiger guerrilla leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

It is the highest prize money announced for anyone in Sri Lanka.

Police said the earlier prize money of 100,000 dollars on Prabhakaran's head, also a record, was raised to half a million dollars following generous contributions from Sri Lankans living abroad.

"We are prepared to pay the reward in any country," a police spokesman said here.

Prabhakaran, 41, heads the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), whose protracted campaign for a separate state in Sri Lanka's northeast has left more than 50,000 people dead and shows no signs of ending.

Prabhakaran is also wanted for the assassinations of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and the then Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1993. Both were killed by suspected LTTE suicide bombers.

Prabhakaran is Sri Lanka's most wanted man and has been spearheading the Tamil separatist campaign since 1972. He founded the LTTE four years later, and it is now reputedly the world's deadliest guerrilla group.

Wednesday's announcement followed the rapid military advance into the LTTE stronghold of Jaffna peninsula in the island's north, ruled by the Tamil Tigers since 1990 like a de facto independent state.

A father of two, the LTTE chief has been arrested only once. He was caught after a shootout with a rival guerrilla in 1982 in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow strip of sea.

But he jumped bail and fled to Sri Lanka. He was never arrested again.

Prabhakaran is now reportedly based in the impregnable forests of Sri Lanka's northern province. The rebels have vowed to fight on even if they lose control of Jaffna peninsula.

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